



SYDNEY SHELLER

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

Next Meetings:

30th April (5th Sat)

Ron Moylan

Cymbiola rutila

28th May Ashley Miskelly

Antarctic Research

25th June Steve Dean

AGM, Pecten

23rd July Chris & Caroline

Cypraea & Olives

(1.30pm for 2pm – 4pm)

(normally 4th Saturday, except for clashes with long weekends, and shell events – call to check)

Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club

117 Ryedale Rd, West Ryde, Sydney

View old 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: Steve Dean

Vice Pres: Maureen Anderson

Treasurer: Peter Pienaar

Secretary: Kim Bishop

Raffles: Maureen Anderson

Sheller Editor: Steve Dean

Librarian: Steve Dean

Annual Shell Show Mgr: Steve Dean

Special Projects Mgr: Vacant

MSA Delegate: Chris Barnes

Shell Club of Sydney

Mission Statement:

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



Natica gualtieriana Observed in sea grass pool – Long Bay rock platform

Some of the topics inside:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ➤ | Long Reef Field Trip |
| ➤ | Long Bay-Little Bay Field Trip (Cover photo) |
| ➤ | Callala Bay-Beach Field Trip |
| ➤ | Minutes |
| ➤ | |



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Pictures below – Long Reef Field Trip

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Australia 2560

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

desbee@optushome.com.au

26 Malga Ave, Roseville Chase NSW 2069



Spurilla sp ↑

Hydatina physis ↓





Meeting Minutes - 26 February 2011

The President, Steve Dean, opened the meeting at 2.10pm.

Attendance Steve Dean, Maureen Anderson, Ron Moylan, Steve Jones and Kim Bishop.

Visitors Lucy Crasbercli.

Apologies were received from Keith Dean, Peter Pienaar, Chris Barnes, Jack Hannan and Chris Crellin.

Correspondence Kim Bishop tabled a letter dated 31 January, 2011 from Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club enclosing a cheque for \$75.00 being their donation to offset room hire for 27 November 2010.

Steve Dean tabled a catalogue from Artisan Products advertising their range of showcases and display cabinets. A copy of the catalogue is available online at artisangroup.net.au.

Finance Report unavailable due to absence of Treasurer.

Library The President reported that he had purchased Australian Land Snails Volume 1, A Field Guide to Eastern Australian Species by John Stanistic, Michael Shea, Darryl Potter and Owen Griffiths for the Library. Some duplicate items from the Library were circulated and made available to anyone who wanted them.

Coming Events International Shell Show, Paris, France to be held 5th and 6th March 2011.

Field Trips Steve Dean reported on recent field trips attended by himself and Jack Hannan. The Field trip planned for Callala in Jervis Bay early January was cancelled due to a large number of fish washing up dead in the area being under investigation and possibly caused by algal bloom. Instead Steve and Jack ventured to Long Reef to record and photograph specimens in the area and noted the presence of *Cypraea asellus* which is more usually found in tropical waters and the uncommon *Mipus arbutum*.

This was followed by a trip to Long Bay and Little Bay on 20 February 2011. Little Bay was a popular swimming spot on this very warm day and no shells of note were found however it was noted that numerous blue ringed octopus were active in the area. Long Bay was more productive and the presence of the following shells was noted: *Conus anemone*, *Limatula strangei*, *Strombus luhuanus*, *Semicassis labiatum*, *Natica fasciata* and *Natica sagittata*.

The following field trips are planned:

Callala in Jervis Bay Saturday 19 March 2011.

Barrington Tops (Land Snails) Winter (date time and exact location to be advised).

General Business Steve Dean reported that our Submission on Draft Zoning Plan : Solitary Islands Marine Park had been successful but our submission on Draft Zoning Plan: Jervis Bay Marine Park had been unsuccessful. Discussions were held and plans made for upcoming meetings. Details to be noted on our web site.

Cake Roster for 2011 is as follows:

March	Ron Moylan
April	Steve Dean
May	Maureen Anderson
June	Kim Bishop
July	Bob Snedic
August	Chris Barnes
September	Jack Hannan
October	Everyone
November	Maureen Anderson

The meeting closed at 3.38pm.

Presentation: Ron Moylan provided feedback on the recent Wellington Shell Show, New Zealand.

Kim Bishop, Secretary

Long Reef, Sydney - Field trip

Jack, Debra and Steve met out on Long Reef to see what the afternoon low tide might reveal.

As the rock platform is within a 'no take' Aquatic Reserve, it was a case of looking, talking and snapping a few pictures.



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We had arranged to meet up with a large group being given a tour of the rock platform and its creatures by Phil Colman and his volunteers. Debra, Jack and Steve were soon well occupied in telling curious on-lookers about the myriad of critters that abound under the rocks near the low tide level. A variety of sea stars, sea urchins, polychaete worms, shrimps and small fish were seen under almost every decent sized rock, along with the more common molluscs such as *Thais orbita*, *Turbo militaris*, *Scutus antipodes*, etc.

The small cowries often found here in fair number and variety were scarce. We did at least observe a couple of *Cypraea erosa* and single specimens of *C. faveola*, *C. annulus* and *C. asellus*. There was some discussion about why the cowries were quite scarce, with comments about frequent disturbance of the area (even if no collecting), variations in larval settlement and the time of year.

Jack tried hard with the camera to get a good *Cypraea* shot, but had to be content with nice photos the bivalve *Limatula strangei*, the bubble shells *Hydatina physis* and *Bullina lineata* and a couple of nudibranchs. (Also see pictures on page 2)



Limatula strangei,



Glossodoris atromarginata (Cuvier, 1804)



Little Bay and Long Bay - Field trip

Steve Dean

The tide was very low and stayed low for a long time. This enabled us to get to all locations around both bays. Weather was good and no wind. Little Bay was packed with people on the beach, in the water and on the rock platform. Sydney has had a length of time with hot sunny weather so it would have been like this for the last two months. As a result there were no cowries or other shells of special note on the rock platform. There were quite a lot of *Haliotis coccoradiata* Reeve, 1846 and some larger but still juvenile *Haliotis rubra* Leach, 1814 under the rocks.

At Long Bay we first went to the small beach on the north side, east of the boat launching ramp. Considerign the variety of species often found here, the beach shells were a bit disappointing on the day. Jack remarked that in recent years, specimesn of the pheasant shell, *Phasianella ventricosa* Swainson, 1822 were quite common, but had all vanished over the last year or so. Jack added that he thought this was a natural change, not related to collecting pressure, as live specimens in the bay were typically well hidden amongst algae in quite deep water. On the rock platform in front of the beach we saw a number of dark coloured *Conus anemone* Lamarck, 1810, a *Mitra carbonaria* Swainson 1822 which have been missing in Sydney for a few years, a dead *Natica sagittata* Menke, 1843 and the white bivalve *Limatula strangei* (Sowerby, 182) under the rocks. Jack took a good picture of a crabbed, *Semicassis labiatum* (Perry, 1811)



I had a look at the beach at the end of the bay, but again it had many children and adults searching the tide lines for shells. Half of the beach had exposed rocks and mud at the extreme low tide line, however there was little life under the rocks other than some keyhole limpets *Amblychilepas nigrita* (Sowerby, 1834)

Jack then took me to his favourite spot in the bay. A large shallow pool on the platform that is high up so gets warmed. It contains tropical fish, loads of sea grass and relatively high numbers of shell species not normally found this far south. You can walk in in the pool and could spend an hour in it. Towards one end you can normally turn many rocks with a good chance to see cowries. There were no cowries this time. There were some *Pinna muricata* Linnaeus, 1758



The rock pool was in fact created when the local Council was pulled up by NSW Fisheries some years ago for doing major



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intertidal works around the nearby swimming baths without the appropriate permit. The Council was let off with a caution, on the condition (amongst others) that they shore up the seaward edge of what has now become the 'rock pool'. Previously, there were a few tiny patches of seagrass surviving in this area, but when a broken wall at the seaward end of the rock pool was repaired, the seagrass and all the other inhabitants of the rock pool began to flourish as a result of water being retained at even the lowest tides.

In another area of the pool it shallows out and has sea grass and mud. *Strombus luhuanus* Linnaeus, 1758 that is in abundance in Queensland is rarely found in Sydney. Some of our members occasionally report snorkelling on pockets of sea grass where a colony has been established, but I had never seen any in Sydney myself. There is a large colony in here. I observed 10 mature specimens in a small area of the sea grass. When I looked at them closely they had multiple small Octopus drill holes in them, like the ones cowries get, but they were all still healthy. I guess strombs are very energetic and don't wait around to be eaten by small octopus.



The sea grass portion of the pool also had *Batillaria australis* (Quoy & Gaimard, 1834) which are unusual to find on exposed rock platforms, preferring estuarine mangrove areas. Long bay is long and narrow, so is probably more sheltered than most of Sydney's ocean foreshores.

We each observed Naticidae normally found in more tropical areas. I was pleased to see a *Natica fasciata* (Röding, 1798) with unusual colouring, and Jack photographed a *Natica gualtieriana* (Picture on front cover & below). There were also a number of the pearl shell *Pinctada fucata* (Gould, 1850)



Long Bay also had common Trochids, Ranellidae, Muricidae, and old broken cowries & tun shells. At all locations around the bay there were dead *Semicassis labiatum* (Perry, 1811) most containing a very active hermit crab. There were plenty of live and dead *Granata imbricata* (Lamarck, 1816) and *Hinea brasiliana* (Lamarck, 1822) the white Littorinidae.

We had expected to find cowries but none were to be seen, other than a dead *Cyparea annulus* Linnaeus, 1758



Meeting Minutes – 26th March 2011.

The President, Steve Dean, opened the meeting at 2.15pm.

Attendance Steve Dean, Peter Pienaar, Ron Moylan, Ashley Miskelly, Steve Jones, Ian Mattiske and Kim Bishop.

Apologies were received from Kim Bishop, Chris Crellin, Jack Hannan and Bob Snedic.

Correspondence Donald Dan, re. COA award

Finance Bank account balance was reported by Treasurer, Peter Pienaar.

Library New South African shell book available – wait and see if it is good before purchase.

Field Trip Reports Two groupings of our members went to Callala Bay Headland, but arrived at different times and did not bump into each other. Observed interesting dead bivalves, especially around Octopus holes. Dead *Cypraea vitellus*. Few Turbinidae - probably due to allowable collecting. Large dead *Conus anemone*. *Amoria undulata*

Acquisitions Ron Moylan advised that he had some new material from Thailand *Conus bengalensis*, *Conus ranonganus*, *Conus vicweei*, *Conus thailandis*, *Cyparea guttata surinensis*. *Murex phyopterus* – tank raised in Guadalupe

The meeting closed at 3.30pm.

Presentation General Discussions, and shell shows

Kim Bishop, Secretary

Club Field Trip to Callala Bay and Callala Beach

Jack Hannan & Steve Dean

Jack and Steve made the trek down to Callala (Jervis Bay), and planned to meet up with Chris Crellin a Sydney Shell Club member who had travelled all the way down from Taree. The rock platform is extensive. Chris and his wife arrived before Steve and Jack, and although we were all on the platform for some hours at the same time, we never saw each other.

Callala is an unusual location from a collecting point of view. Being located well within Jervis Bay, it is subject to a rare combination of marine and estuarine influences. The extensive rock platform/ intertidal area supports extensive healthy seagrass beds along with a range of estuarine molluscs such as *Polinices sordida*, and the mud whelk *Batillaria australis*

At the same time, the usual marine species were present, although perhaps not in the same diversity that members have previously observed around nearby Huskisson. The unusual mix of marine species was highlighted by Jack's find of a fairly large mud crab exoskeleton *Scylla serrata* in one of the muddier parts of the platform. The algal community was distinct also, with several 'southern' species including a grape-like species of *Caulerpa* being very common.

The weather was a challenge, with strengthening SE winds and gathering rain clouds. However, Jack was rewarded with an unusual bivalve find, a fresh dead specimen of *Codakia rugifera* that, instead of having two equal slightly swollen valves, had one valve that was greatly swollen and one almost completely flat. (Even though this species often lives in mud tight cracks between rocks, it does not normally grow asymmetrically to fit its situation)





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Jack also found a large slightly worn cone shell ***Conus anemone*** amongst seaweed washed up on the beach, plus a lovely fresh dead shell of the snail ***Polinices sordida*** – a species often difficult to find in good condition owing to its usual preference for corrosive muddy estuarine environments.

Steve came up with specimens of ***Antisaba aff. Foliacea***, ***Tellina botanica*** and ***Tagali parmophoidea***. Living under the rocks we observed ***Scutus antipodes***, ***Barbatia pistachia*** and large specimens of the scallop ***Scaechlamys livida***. (55 mm closed)



In the mud weed beds there were ***Anadara trapezia***, ***Xonuber conicum*** and ***Irus crenatus***

An attractive bivalve ***Katelysia rhyphora*** was found dead around octopus lairs, and is a species we don't see much in Sydney.

Chris managed to find some dead ***Amoria undulata*** in good condition by covering a more extensive length of the platform.



Chromodoris daphne (Angas, 1864)