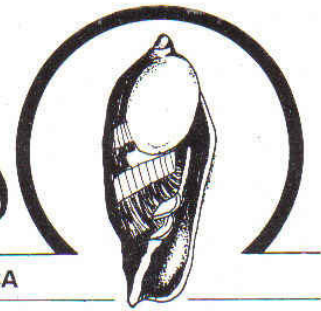


The Strandloper

BULLETIN OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



No. 176

FEBRUARY/MARCH

1976

SOUTH COAST SHELLING

by K. BROWN

Shelly Beach is ideally situated on the Natal South Coast, between Port Shepstone and Margate, and, contrary to pollution bewailing ecologists, the area is still a highly profitable one from the conchologists point of view. We were settled at a cottage not far from the beach itself and about two kilometres from St. Michael's-on-sea.

Our first day of shell collecting began with, as is so often the case in Natal in July, a perfect almost still morning, the slight whispering of the leaves being the sole fore-warning of the wind to come. Michael Cortie and myself began by thoroughly searching the tidal pool. The water was cold and our wet-suits came in very useful. I kicked slowly up and down the pool, mulling over the number of fish heads thrown into it by fishermen. Suddenly I saw a *Hydatina velum* of about 20 mm. The otherwise semi-translucent white animal was surrounded by a beautiful blue fringe. It was a spectacular sight. The pool was also occupied by many *Peristernia leucothea*, several species of Nerites and a *Natica marochiensis*. Mike found two bivalves of the family Pinnidae, while under a ledge we found no less than five Turkey or Devil fish – *Pterois volitans* – which we steered clear of, leaving them to the company of

(Continued on page 2)



Drupa Aspera Lamareck. 21 x 12 mm

JEWEL OF THE INDIAN OCEAN

by J. POLACK

Mauritius has aptly been called the "Jewel of the Indian Ocean". It is a veritable dream island with its gleaming white coral sands and casuarina and palm fringed beaches.

Although only a pocket-sized isle of about 1850 square kilometres the island is a masterpiece of nature with its fantastic mountain peaks, clear sparkling streams and sugar-cane covered plains.

A coral reef – seldom more than a kilometre or two off shore – encircles practically the whole of Mauritius, with the result that the sea immediately off shore is as calm as a mill-pond and crystal clear. Dave Mullany wrote of Mauritius 'In terms of sheer unspoilt beauty there can surely be no finer coastline in the world'.

After a relaxing flight of 3½ hours from Johannesburg, one lands at Plaisance Airport, just outside the small town of Mahebourg. In order to visit the numerous beauty spots and places of interest the use of a car is essential. Consequently, before leaving Johannesburg, we had arranged to hire a small car for the whole of our stay in Mauritius. The car was waiting for us at the airport and after a short drive we arrived at our destination – a seaside cottage at Pointe d'Esny.

The beach was about 40 yards away from our boundry and we spent every spare moment exploring the coral formations which were a mere 30 to 40 feet from the water's edge. *Cypraea annulus* and *C. caputserpentis* were abundant. By following the various trails in the sand we found a few olive and terebra shells and also two fair sized tonna. The only cones collected were two or three *imperialis*, about half a dozen *tessulata* and a fair number of *lividus*.

Mauritian waters are infested with millions of sea-urchins so that before one could have a trouble free swim one was forced to clear the bathing area by collecting the offending "sea eggs" and deposit them high up on the beach.

The numerous reefs surrounding us promised outstanding shelling results, but our hopes were soon dashed when we found that they had all be stripped. Although the area we were in was reputed to be the best on the island, we found that sea life was virtually non-existent. No crabs, brittle-stars or sea growth were to be found on or under the loose or dead coral, while shells were conspicuous by their absence. Shells can, however, be bought all over Mauritius, but only at fantastic prices. Madam Kwako, a keen shell collector, has an outstanding display of Mauritian shells taken by herself, but she informed us that our

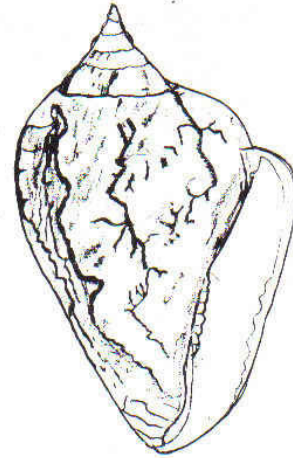
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several sea urchins and bristle worms. We also saw several file fish.

Our searching in the days to come varied down the coast, and we found tidal pools to be very profitable, except for those which had recently been drained, or had had their walls recently cleaned of weed, or which were battered to much by the seas. All shells, unless otherwise specified, are live taken. One pool yielded a small *Cymatium parthenopeum* and a *Bulla ampulla*, but the least known pools was especially rich. A cold off-sea breeze was blowing, and as this was the third time we had dived in one day, we were relatively tired. Nevertheless we entered the pool and almost immediately Mike found a *Columbella turturina* and a beautiful specimen of *Mitra litterata*. We also found several *Conus lividus*. The latter two species occupied shallow grottoes at the foot of the pool's walls, less than one metre deep. On a shallow rock bottom, in a crevice, I found a *Conus musicus*, a large *Cymatium parthenopeum* with a magnificent hairy periostracum was found crawling practically invisible at the base of a two metre rock wall. Another *C. musicus* was found well camouflaged in seaweed on the wall itself, and at the end of a sand trail an *Urosalpinx heptagonalis* was found. Within the area of one square decimetre were two *Cypraea annulus* and a large *C. caputserpentis*, the latter having its mantle fully extended. They were on a thickly weeded wall, about half a metre below the surface. A small *Strombus mutabilis* crawled jerkily on the natural rock wall, covered in waving weed. This pool was truly magnificent. The water was cold and crisp and the visibility was about five metres. That evening, mentally apologising to persons concerned, we used the last of a bottle of cane spirit to preserve the animals as we had nothing else.

Once, when we had exhausted ourselves diving, we spent a wind swept morning on the rocks at Umteentweni. The tide was on the ebb, and the fishing seemed good, for a number of fishermen certainly justified my thinking so. In the first pool we encountered, which was in no place



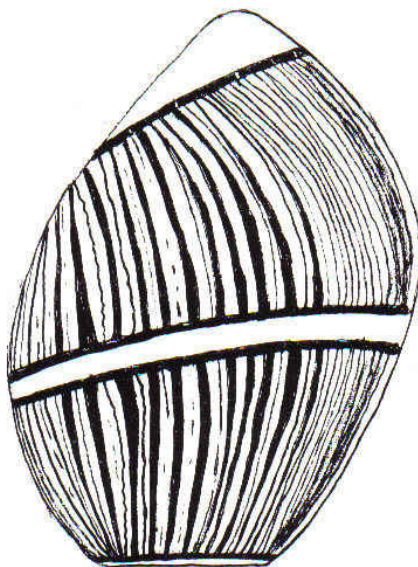
Columbella Turturina (Lamarck) 16 x 10 mm

deeper than two metres, we noticed trails shimmering below the surface in the sand. Rushing back to the car for our improvised sieves, Mike spent a watery, if not icy time fruitlessly searching for the mysterious sand dwellers. I, in the interim, found two *Cypraea annulus* on a weedy wall in a rock crevice. In a rocky sand pocket we found two mating *Hydatina physis* which we left alone. Later I found a mature specimen in another shallow pool which was almost entirely sand free.

We now began searching for a suitable "depot" pool, into which we could place our live shells, that is the specimens we would take back home with us for Mike's marine aquarium in Johannesburg. (All the shells survived the 570 kilometre journey, viz. 4 *Cypraea annulus*, a *Strombus mutabilis*, a *Cymatium clandestinum*, a *Cymatium parthenopeum*, a *Conus lividus*, *Drupa granulata*, *Turbo coronatus*, *Oxystele variegata*, *Monodonta australis*, and a *Cerith*). We found an ideal pool, shallow and without crevices, into which we placed the shells. A *Bursa bufonia* was found in a weedy, colourful trench and under a brightly coloured sea urchin Mike found a *Heliacus variegatus*. As we moved southwards along the rocks the pools became progressively deeper and wider, until we decided it was worthwhile to don goggles and flippers.

The entire area teems with rock shells; *Drupa elatum*, *D. anaxares*, *D. aspersa* *D. granulata*, can be found in large numbers. Almost as common were many *Trochus nigropunctatus* and *Turbo coronatus*. Apart from several more cones and a *Columbella turturina*, the pools yielded a superb underwater display, with bright blazes of colour of sea urchins, waving large-leaved brown weed and bright green seaweed. We found a beautiful *Bullina ziczac* with a green rimmed body, and having intensely white patches. The shell, fragile with wavy black lines, rested on this magnificent body. We did not take it. Satisfied, we returned to our "depot" pool and placed our shells in the mobile aquarium at the cottage.

Shelling at Southbroom yielded a fine specimen of *Cymatium parthenopeum* found just below the surface in an area of rounded boulders, and sand free. The general



Hypatina Velum (Gmelin) 20 x 16 mm

(Continued on page 4)

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chances of finding anything worthwhile these days was on a par with winning the Irish Sweepstake. Even skin or scuba divers were having very little luck.

Mauritius received full independence in 1968 and is now governed solely by Indians and Creoles. The last census, taken in 1973, revealed that the population consisted of 540 000 Indians, 270 000 Creoles, 26 000 Chinese and 11 000 Europeans. When purchasing anything one should always haggle over the price asked — especially if one is a tourist — otherwise one is considered a “sucker”. There are two large towns in Mauritius, Port Louis inhabited by Indians and Chinese, and Curepipe where the Europeans prefer to live in the more temperate climate.

In Port Louis a ‘must’ for shell collectors is a visit to the “Mikado” — a shop run by shell dealer Vic Chakowa. A large variety of shells, including the rarer items, may be purchased here but prices once again are high. Above his shop Vic Chakowa has a small but very tastefully laid out museum containing many rare shells.

Another place of interest to conchologists is the de Croixelles museum in Curepipe. Visitors are charged a small entrance fee to view the shells, and in front of the museum is a small shop where shell may be purchased. Mauritius is an ideal spot for a visit but is not recommended to the ardent shell collector who wishes to find his own shells as against purchasing them.

To give an idea of the shells collected by our party of four — Hester and Allen Jenner, and Marie and Jack Polack — some 100 or so species were collected of which the greater majority were dead and very few were uncommon or rare shells. Of the more popular families there were some 15 cowries and 12 cones. The only outstanding of the latter were *C. janus* and *C. barthelemyi* which had, however, to be purchased. Amongst the rare shells that, once again, could only be had for money, were two *Harpa costata* and a *Lambis violacea*. Among the more uncommon species taken alive were: — *Terebra lanciata*, *Nerita atterima*, *Coraliofila peritoides* and (?) *costularis*, *Mitra cucumerine*, *Oliva sidelia*, *Nassarius concinnus* and *Cancellaria trigonostoma scalata*.

It may be of interest to members to hear what the holiday of 15 days cost each of us:—

Return airfare Johannesburg — Mauritius	R248,80
Rental of fully equipped cottage	16,41
Food, drinks etc.	18,51
Car hire, insurance, petrol etc.	31,39
TOTAL	R314,91

A hint to shell collectors might not be out of place in this article. The writer cut his hand so badly on the coral that stitches were advocated, but a few applications of Friars Balsam warded off all infection and completely healed the wound in 3 or 4 days.

EXCHANGES WANTED

- Mr K. Wilsch, Brigittenauerlande 172/4/1/4, A-1200 Wien, Austria. Would like to make contact with South African collectors with the view to exchange.
- Miss A. Gerhardt, Statenplein 7, Rotterdam, Holland. Would like to make contact with South African collectors with the view to exchanging shells and correspondence.
- Mr Guido Carotenuto, Via Brighindi n.37, 03100 Frosinone, Italy. Would like to contact South African collectors with the view to exchanging.
- Mr Joseph Kelsch, 658 N.E. 6th Ct No 4E, Boynton Beh, Fla. U.S.A. 33435. Wants to exchange shells from his area for South African shells.

ARGONAUT FOR AN ASTRONAUT

By M. Eva

It was just before the Christmas rush descended upon us. I had not done much shelling since mid-November, when despite lovely weather the beaches were disappointing to collectors. “Just the same old things” each time we went out, very little that was new or interesting, or worth reporting and recording.

I was invited to a Luncheon arranged by the Gonubie Round Table Wives, in honour of Col. James Irwin and his wife, Mary, on their visit to East London. Mary Irwin was to speak, mainly on her role as wife of a famous Astronaut, and her reactions when her husband left the earth for the moon. During her talk, she mentioned as a matter of interest that their hobby, when time permitted was skin-diving, and shell-collecting. After the luncheon, I managed to make contact with her, and to our delight she was free for the afternoon to pay a visit to the Beach something she had been longing to do: and to the great envy of Col. James, (for whom a tennis party had been arranged by some businessmen in the city) we set off in high spirits. Mary Irwin's one consuming desire was to possess an *Argonauta argo* from a South African beach. We first visited Peggy Faulkner's shop, where she was able to purchase some *Voluta bullata*, cyp. species, and other S.A. shells, but alas, no argonaut. The wind was icy-cold, but we battled our way down to a very unpleasant beach, where the tide was coming in, hiding all the productive little gullies. However, for the record, a lot of fresh dead shells were being pushed up along the tide-line, with masses of seaweed, and to the delight of Mary, and young daughter, Jill, we found lovely examples of *comus tinianus*, *comus natalensis*, *turbo sanartica*, many *trochidae oxytele* and *clanculus*, and some very fresh cyp. *capensis*, *edentula*, *helvola*, and one *citrina*, and of course the usual varieties of *marginella* and *cymatium africanus* that are always present there. I was busy disentangling *patella longicosta* and *tabularis* from masses of seaweed, when I heard a shrill cry above the whistling wind. Jill was waving her arms excitedly, and Mary stood transfixed away up on the beach, near the line of bushes, among an uninviting array of bleached and broken shells, beach drift, and dry sand. In her hand as a perfect, fresh *argonauta argo*! Wal I guess that shell was placed there especially for the astronaut's wife! . . . “and it was worth coming such a long way from Mexico to Africa to collect that swell shell, honey”! Isn't it a far greater thrill to pick up a treasure oneself than to buy it in a shop?

The happy sequel for me happened later, when my post arrived: There was a parcel from Colorado (the Irwin's new base). Inside was a variety of shells taken in the Mexican Gulf, some of which I had never seen before, and am delighted to have in my collection. One of the shells was unlabelled, except for locality data. It resembled a *Thaidea* sp. — dark brown with corroded apex, rutted body-whorl, and a fairly wide, procelain-white aperture, with one long projection (or tusk-like spike) on the lower outer lip. Size — the large example was about 60 mm. I can't find anything like it in any of my books.

(Continued from page 2)

area yielded a Cerith, a *Cymatium africanum* (dead) and several cones. The tidal pool has a breathtakingly beautiful growth of delicate brown weed, and nearby we found a coral growth, truly remarkable in that it is the only place on this stretch of coast which we know to have such a growth.

We had a final fling at diving for shells, though we did not know it then, for the water was to turn a ginger-beer brown, and this coupled with a sardine run, increasing the shark hazard, and a higher than usual spring tide were all serious impediments to us. Before this happened, however, we were able to explore off-shore Margate rocks and Shelly Beach thoroughly, the latter yielding large, dead *Charonia pustulata* beyond the breakers.

The sketches accompanying this article are the work of P. Lohrmann.

NOTES ON SOUTH AFRICAN CASSIDAE

A Correction by R.N. KILBURN

With reference to Miss M. Eva's article on South African Cassidae I must point out that the species figured as *Phalium bisculatum* on page 4, is in fact *P. microstoma* Von Marten, 1904 (not 1903 as stated by Abbot, 1968, Indo-Pacific Mollusca 2(9):137). This deep water species, previously reported only from off Tanzania and Somalia, occurs occasionally off Durban in about 150 fathoms, and in Moçambique in shallower water (60-70 fathoms). It is much narrower than *P. bisculatum* and differs also in its conspicuously fore-shortened columella.

(We apologise to members for any inconvenience this error, which was in accordance with the information supplied with the shell photographed, may have caused. Editor)

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INTERTIDAL TALK

An up-to-date list of members (January, 1976) was recently sent to all members. There are a number of changes since the last list and you are asked to destroy all previous lists. The changes affect changes of address and in some cases changes of name. We would like to take this opportunity of congratulating those members who now go under their new husband's name. Unfortunately, it is almost impossible to issue an up-to-date membership list because before it is even posted there are changes to be recorded. Changes of address and new members since the list was completed two weeks ago are listed elsewhere in this issue. Further alterations will be published in ensuing issues of the Strandloper.

During the holidays we had occasion to browse through some of the back numbers of our Circulars and we were once again struck by the wealth of information published over the years. The Society is now nearly eighteen years old and during that time 175 Circulars/Strandlopers have been issued. Back numbers are still available for those members who wish to obtain a complete set. These back numbers are sold at 10 cents each, usually in sets but we are sure that our Secretary will not mind receiving orders for smaller quantities from those members who feel that they would like to spread the cost over a period.

With this issue of the Strandloper we start a column of 'personal smalls'. This is intended for those members who wish to buy or sell shells and books and does not apply to dealers in shells. The rates for advertising in this column are R1 per column inch. Members wishing straight exchanges will still have their requests entered in the Exchanges Wanted column free of charge i.e. the 'personal smalls' only applies when members wish to buy or sell for money.

The Coastal Bend Shell Club, 109 Duke Lane, Portland, Texas 78374 U.S.A. have asked if we can send them shells by means of selling or exchanging. This club has a shell raffle at each meeting in order to raise funds for the purpose of enlarging their library. Would any members who feel that they would like to help please write direct to Theresa Stelzig the President of the Club at the above address.

NOTES ON SOUTH AFRICAN FASCIOLARIDAE

Additions and Alterations by M. LATIGAN

Members are referred to the article on this family which appeared on page 1 of The Strandloper No. 175 and are requested to make the following additions and alterations.

Latirus filmerae (Sow)

One live specimen found at Ntlonyane. Body bright red. On sand in 14 cm of water at low tide. Unfortunately the animal was discarded.

Latirus formosior Melvill, 1891

Moçambique and East Africa. A uniform buff/yellow shell.

Latirus tigroides Kilburn, 1975

Durban to Umsikaba. Previously confused with *L. polygonus*, but the differences have been described by Kilburn (1975).

Latirus polygonus (Gmelin, 1791)

Indo-Pacific to Moçambique.

Latirus elsiae Kilburn, 1975

This new species was recently described from Beira.

PLACE NAMES

by D. GOULD

Allowing one's eyes to travel down a map of part of the West and South West coast of South Africa, one sees some unusual place names. On attempting to find out more about these places, one comes across interesting facts.

Starting at Port Nolloth, one discovers it was established in 1855 and was formerly known as Robbe Bay (Seal Bay) and the present name comes from Commander M.S. Nolloth who surveyed the coast in H.M.S. *Erolic*. *Patellas granatina*, *barbara*, and *granularis* (all Linn.) are listed as being found there.

Hondeklip (dog stone) Bay an inlet on the Namaqualand coast takes its name one understands from a curious dog shaped rock.

Lamberts Bay was known to early Dutch navigators and it was first colonised in 1800. Admiral Sir Robert Lambert was Commander of the Cape station from 1820–21. Bird or Penguin Island (it appears to be known by both names) is near Lamberts Bay and is inhabited by Cape Gannets.

Perhaps Elands Bay takes its name from the large antelope, the Eland. If this is so, it certainly is an impressive name as this animal can reach a height at the shoulder of six feet.

Laaiplek meaning loading place is on St. Helena Bay. So is Stompneus baai (Stompnose Bay) and again one wonders if the name is taken from the fish known as white stumpnose — *Rhabdosargus globiceps* (Cuv.). Caught from Cape Cross to Durban it is a sporting fish and I once read that it is sometimes known as the "Go-Home-fish" because when it is caught, no other fish will be found in the vicinity. Maybe this is just a fisherman's tale, I don't know.

SMALLS

Shells for Sale: *Conus milneedwardsi*, *Conus hairstowi*, *Cypraea capensis* and *Cypraea edentula*. Write to Mrs F. Stäger-Le Clair, 11 Teema Court, 11 Harris Street, Port Elizabeth 6001

Wanted to Buy: *Argonauta nodosa*, *Argonauta hians* and *Nautilus pompilius*. Contact Mr J. Jeffrey, 20 Myrtle Road, George 6530.



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Nos.	1 to 40	R4,00
	41 to 60	R2,00
	61 to 80	R2,00
	81 to 100	R2,00
	101 to 120	R2,00
	121 to 140	R2,00
	141 to 160	R2,00
	161 to 170	10 cents each.
		no index.

Write to the Secretary, P.O. Box 98, Howard Place 7450.

St. Helena Bay was named by Vasco da Gama, the discoverer of the sea route to India, on 7th November, 1497 when he landed in the bay.

Hoetjies Bay on the northern side of Saldanha Bay is believed to have been called after the family of Oetgens van Wavern in Amsterdam. Saldanha on the shores of Saldanha Bay and which is so much in the news lately due to the enormous development taking place there, was originally a Dutch outpost set up in 1666. Its name comes from the Portuguese navigator Antonio da Saldanha. During the American Civil was the confederate raider "Alabama" used it for a short while for a base.

Langebaan (Dutch for long course) is a beautifully situated seaside resort on the shore of Langebaan Lagoon part of Saldanha Bay. Shells found here have included *Marginella capensis* (Krauss), *Nassa kraussiana* (Dunker) and *Turritella capensis* (Kruass).

Jutten Island at the entrance to Saldanha Bay was the scene of the wreck of the East Indiaman, the *Meresteyn*, in 1702.

Ysterfontein (iron fountain) was once a whaling station and the disused station can still be seen.

Blaauwberg, also spelt Blouberg and meaning blue mountain, is noted for its beautiful view (on a clear day) of Table Mountain. British forces landed there in 1806 and the Battle of Blaauwberg took place there in the same year. Names of streets in the town commemorate the leaders of both sides in the battle.

Finally the eye rests on the name Table Bay on whose shores lie beautiful Cape Town and where the mother and founder branch of the Shell club is to be found.

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PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

The Society has copies of the following publications for sale at the prices stated:

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Additional list of S.A. Marine Shells found on the Natal/Zululand Coast by B.L. Cock **R0,50**

Write to the Secretary, P.O. Box 98, Howard Place 7450.

THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

(Founded 1958)

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All enquires should be addressed to the Secretary,
The Conchological Society of South Africa,
P.O. Box 98, Howard Place 7450, Cape, South Africa.

Entrance Fee is R1,00, with a yearly subscription of R4,00.
The Financial Year runs from 1st July to 30th June, and members joining after December need only pay one half of the annual subscription to ensure membership to the 30th June of that year.

Members who are full-time students at an Educational Institution in South Africa may join as Student Members on payment of an annual subscription of R2,00. No Entrance Fee is payable in respect of Student Membership.

The Society's Bulletin, The Strandloper is issued free to members.

The Society has active groups in the following areas:—

Cape Town:	Secretary Mrs R.O. Carlsson, P.O. Box 98, Howard Place 7450 Tel.: 53-1536
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Advertisements are accepted for publication in The Strandloper at the following rates:

- Display advertisements from dealers — R5,00 per column inch.
- Personal Smalls from members — R1,00 per column inch.

AROUND THE GROUPS

CAPE TOWN — Our November, 1975 meeting, being the last for the year, took the form of a year end party. Business was kept to a minimum and the party went off with a (Christmas cracker) bang. There was a lucky dip of shells and after tea, served with sumptuous eats brought by members, two films — The Living Mountain and The Living Forest were screened. Mr Owen Griffiths, our world traveller from Sydney, thanked the Society for its hospitality during the three months he had been with us. He said we were welcome to visit him any time we liked when we get to Australia. In closing the meeting Mrs Giles thanked all those members who had contributed to the lucky dip and to the eats and wished all a very happy Christmas and Prosperous 1976. At our January, 1976 meeting we once again got down to serious business. The Secretary informed the meeting that the Late Mrs Grace Steele-Boe's collection was being offered for sale by her son. The shells on display were from recent parcels and outings and all those who had shells on display told the meeting about them. Mr. Brian Rees, Secretary of the False Bay Conservation Society, then took the floor and gave a running commentary on slides of the flora and fauna found in False Bay and on the West Coast. The slides were outstanding and reminded us that life under the sea was more beautiful and colourful than many of us realised.

PORT ELIZABETH — Our November meeting was attended by 10 members with apologies from a further four. It was noted that the

Border Group had agreed to the joint field outing to be held at Port Alfred. It was also agreed to hold a local field outing at Kint Bay on 22nd November. The shells for discussion were the family Volutidae. Mrs Hoogenhout showed an extremely fresh, two inch, *Bursa granularis* found at Jeffreys Bay, a rare shell from this locality. On Saturday, 6th December, we held a combined meeting with members from the Border Group at Port Alfred. Port Alfred members, who seldom have a chance of meeting the other members, outnumbered the party by 4 to 3 which is an indication that regrettably few people from East London and Port Elizabeth managed to attend. Mrs Lowe, who treated the travellers to coffee and cakes, showed her lovely collection while Mrs Latigan and Mr Graeve got down to comparing the checklists for the two areas. Lunch was had on the beach at Rainbow Park as the weather was perfect — sunny and windless. The members did some serious shelling and all too soon the party had to break up for the return trip.

EAST LONDON — At our October meeting Mrs Latigan led the discussion on the families Littorinidae and Architectonicidae. Our most interesting find of the month was a live *Cypraea fuscocentata* collected by Peter Bernt at Cape St. Francis. Mrs P. Palmer came up with a *Fossarus capensis* collected at Gouubie and Mrs Hulley had a *Haliotis queketti* found live at Xora. Mrs Latigan reported that the live Volvas taken off Nahoon (see Strandloper No. 171, page 6: Around the Groups — Border) had been identified by Mr Kilburn as *Phenacovolva rosea* (A. Adams) and *Volva zuidafrikaans* (Cate). At our November meeting we made arrangements in connection with the trip to Port Alfred after which Mrs Latigan continued with a talk on the family Cerithiidae. This was well illustrated with shells and photographs.

DURBAN — Our October meeting was our Annual General Meeting and the afternoon was devoted to business and general discussion. The last outing was a Sunday spent at Pennington. The weather was reasonably kind, though the wind was strong. The shelling was not particularly good but we all enjoyed the day. It is certain that all of us who were at the meeting on Saturday 8th November at the home of Piet and Lyn Goosen will agree that it was really an enjoyable afternoon. Members were asked to bring their latest overseas parcels received, unopened, and to open them at the meeting for all to join in the thrill.

PIETERMARITZBURG — At our November meeting Mr Kilburn gave his second talk in his series on the family Naticidae — those of the coasts of Natal and Mozambique. He dealt with the genera Polinices, Sinum and Lunaticina. These were fully discussed and specimens passed around. Information was drawn from Mr Kilburn's revision of the group — five new species will be described in this work. Our December meeting was just a friendly get-together. Some members brought shells for Mr Kilburn to identify. This has always been a great help to many of us. We then saw a film on the Great Barrier Reef, the vast expanse of which was most impressive. The whole film proved of great interest to us all.

PRETORIA — Our November meeting was held in the Showroom of Capital Volkswagen Motors. The activities of the Group ended for the year on a high note with more than 50 people present and at least twelve excellent shell exhibits. In opening the meeting the Chairman welcomed members of the Johannesburg Group and thanked the staff of Capital Volkswagen for their assistance and use of the showroom. He further announced that he was donating a floating trophy. During the adjudication, which was done by Dr H. van Hoepen, a film on wild life was shown. After the film Dr van Hoepen announced the following results:

1. Best Scientific Exhibit — Anne Wilson, Amphineura
2. Most Beautiful Exhibit — Laurie Smith, Pectinidae
— Adv and Mrs Mullan. Highly commended, Jeffreys Bay Shells
3. Most Beautiful Shells — Lorene du Preez, uses of shells
4. Best Beginner — Dr and Mrs E. van Hoepen, Mozambique shells.

CHANGES TO JANUARY 1976 MEMBERSHIP LIST

OMMISSIONS:

1972 Mr S. Sharpe, Amherst R.R. No. 2, Nova Scotia B44 3X9, Canada.

NEW MEMBERS:

S 1976 Mr T. Grootens, C/o Dept. Elektriese Ingenieurswese, Randse Afrikaanse Universiteit, Posbus 524, Johannesburg 2000.

1976 Mr J. Ramon, B.P. 2738, Noumea, Nouvelle Calédonie.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

1974 Mr R.J. Ratray, Gull Road, Southfield 7800

1969 Mr C. Witte-Vermeulen, P.O. Box 927, Johannesburg 2000

1970 Mrs M.J. Latigan, 17 Barnacle Rd., Towerby, Johannesburg 2001

1974 Mr N. Pirozzi, Via Ugo Palemo 3, 80128 Napoli, Italy

1973 Mr B.E. Brickhill, Port Dunford Plantation, P.O. Box Felixton 3875

1973 Mrs B.E. Brickhill, Port Dunford Plantation, P.O. Box Felixton 3875

1974 Mrs C. Stewart-Wynne, 8 Harry Dillely St., Tzaneen 0850