



A Letter from the President's Desk

Setting Goals

Hi everyone,

It's been a while since I've sent out a newsletter (the last one was just before the 2019 AGM...) – it's been a busy second half of the previous year for me and I've not had much time to devote to the Society, neither to the hobby. I need to give myself a slap on the wrist on both counts! But, it's a new year and I start off with new aspirations to continue carrying the baton (at least up until the AGM) and do my part to rekindle the hobby we all cherish.

Before talking "2020", I do hope your 2019 ended off on a high note, and that you managed tick off a few important (or even trivial) items on your Conchological bucket list. Unfortunately the year ended on a low for the Society as we said goodbye to Society stalwart Danny Spengler, who passed away towards the end of the 2019. Danny was a regular attendee at Pretoria Club meetings (thanks to Roy Aiken who always brought him to the meetings). Danny and will be remembered for his love for micro shells and the examples of shells he found inside the guts of fish.

There will be a little column on Danny's shelling life and exploits in the next issue of *The Strandloper* – out soon! Speaking of things that will be released soon, we are busy revamping our Facebook Page to make it more user-friendly and interactive. We will let you know once it is live in a separate letter.

The Committee has given itself two primary goals for the year. The first is to implement measures to ensure that the newly-established Regional Clubs (Cape Town, Jeffreys Bay, Durban and Scottburgh) are promoted and properly equipped to function effectively. The second is to reach out to schools to create awareness of the marine environment, conservation and our hobby in general amongst the youngsters out there. Despite being limited to two goals, both are fairly complex and will take a considerable effort from all involved to achieve. But, we have set the bar and will attempt to cross it.

This is a voting year and we will be issuing related information to our Members as before and requesting nominees for a new Committee, to be elected at the 2020 AGM. The AGM has been scheduled for 6 June, and we are hoping for a great turnout and a full program. More on this in a later circular. In the meanwhile, to be circulated with this letter are the Minutes from the 2019 AGM for your perusal.

So then, here's to 2020 – let's make it a perfect year (shelling-wise, at least), a year where we have 20-20 vision (see what I did there...) with a clear set of goals to aim at. You know the old saying: if you aim at nothing, you'll hit it every time.

Till next time, happy shelling!

President, SCSA
27 January 2020

