



# Halfway there...

## A note from the president's hand

Dear shell friends,

As we speed past the halfway-mark in the year, it is hard to believe that we have a little over 4 months to go till Christmas. Soon the shops will be filled with holiday cheer (it seems to get earlier each year) and I'll be shopping for the perfect gifts for my lovely wife and two sprouts. Fortunately, I have four months within which to save – unless I blow it all on shells, which is not out of the question. Restraint is in order!

It has been a while since I wrote something *shelly*, so just a bit of news on what has transpired since the AGM.

### AGM 2017

Speaking of, we had a lovely and very successful AGM this year. Sincere thanks go out to all who made this possible, not least to my dedicated Committee, who pulled out all the stops to help with arrangements and see to it that we had a blast. A special word of thanks is in order for the following (in no particular order):

#### Anton Groenewald

- Arrangement of the venue
- Arrangement of additional amenities at the venue (tables, table cloths, water, glasses)
- Advertising and route signposting at the venue

#### Maurice Evans

- Organising of lunch platters
- Organising of soft drinks and wine
- Provisioning of wine glasses
- Cleaning and repairing of Trophies
- Being our trusty auctioneer and “phone bidder” (an inside joke – you had to be there...)

#### Ken Brown

- Being our photographer of the day

#### Roy Aiken

- Providing a large chunk of shells for the AGM Auction
- Being a judge for the AGM Exhibits
- Sticking around for 50 years (another inside joke...)

#### Alan Seccombe

- Providing the other large chunk of shells for the AGM Auction
- Doing the AGM Talk (on Dredged Shells – always fascinating)

#### Alwyn Marais

- Being the other judge for the AGM Exhibits

I also want to thank each and every one who made an effort to attend the AGM; without you, it would be a very lonely affair... I have to single out one attendee, though: a big thank you to John Hobbs who flew up all the way from Cape Town to attend! This is true dedication. In addition, John brought some lovely shells to sell and trade (a few ending up in my own collection). Fortunately also John walked away with a number of nice new shells from the AGM Auction, including the “bargain of the day” – a “dead but lovely” *Afrozoila fultoni*, sponsored by Alan.

I hope we will see many more *faces from faraway places* at the next AGM. Otherwise we may have to do something radical and have the next one in KZN...

### AGM 2017 Exhibits

In addition to the normal proceedings at the AGM, we had plenty of fun, and were entertained through a visual feast of Exhibits prepared by our members in attendance. I think without a doubt that the “bar has been raised” during this AGM, with some beautiful and very creative Exhibits being prepared and presented.

We also tested a new Exhibit Adjudication Form, which we will be adapting and improving for the next AGM. We will also be revealing the theme and categories for the 2018 AGM Exhibits soon, so as to give everyone wishing to create an Exhibit more than enough time to prepare and make their masterpieces.



Two of the Exhibits, showing real quality and workmanship



The Exhibit table

Another big word of thanks from me to all who put in many hours of planning, building and creating, and who took the time and effort to display an Exhibit at the 2017 AGM. Also a round of congratulations to all who won an award; I promise I will abstain from entering next year... 😊

For those wishing to see what the Exhibits looked like, the latest edition of our Newsletter – *Sea Bones* no 9, issued on 17 July 2017 – contains a lovely selection of photographs of all Exhibits presented at the AGM.

### **AGM 2017 Auction**

It would not be an AGM without the customary AGM Auction. And what an Auction it was! The largest in years, it was due to the generosity of Messrs Aiken and Seccombe, who donated a ton of shells, making it one of the most memorable in a very long time. Roy was celebrating 50 years of Membership with the Society, which prompted him to donate an especially generous portion of the shells for the Auction.

Maurice was at it again and did us proud as the resident Auctioneer. Most attendees walked away with at least a couple of bargains.



Auction Time: John Hobbes being made an offer he cannot refuse

### **Society Constitution**

It was not all play: fortunately we had a Quorum, and could therefore vote into place the newly updated Society Constitution. A copy is available on our new website ([www.scsa.co.za](http://www.scsa.co.za)) for your perusal. Many thanks to Ken Brown who did the brunt of the editing – and, of course, to all who voted.

## **The Conchological Society of Southern Africa**

(or any other operational name or title the Society may from time to time apply)

# **CONSTITUTION**

### **The Du Preez Collection**

Since the conclusion of the AGM, the Committee has been hard at work sorting through the ML Du Preez Collection, which was donated to the Society in February 2017. For those of you reading this not knowing what I am talking about, I have a short note in my Annual Report (available for download from the Website). In essence it involves sorting through literally thousands of specimens,

checking labels, photographing shells we want to keep, and then repacking them into new boxes for protection.

The task was always going to be a daunting one, but I think it only dawned upon us what the real scope of work and effort was once we got started on the first box. We have since put in 10 hours of work (with literal sweat, I tell you!) over the course of two Saturdays, and sorted through approximately 80 books and 12 boxes of shells – with another 6 or so boxes left, plus three large drawer cabinets full of specimens. So, many hours of sweat left...

Once done, we will inform all of our Members of our plans regarding the “excess”, i.e. those specimens we have purposely set aside for redistribution within the Society. We do have a few nifty ideas – most of them conjured up during lunch while scoffing pizza, so nothing official yet – but it may involve things like “money tokens” as opposed to real money (the word “fairness” comes to mind here), as well as “auction days”.



Roy holding one of the treasures, a magnificent *Triplofusus giganteus* (Kiener, 1840)

Whatever the decision, it is bound to be lots of fun: we already have about six boxes full of shells we do not want to keep, and these will all go towards the “redistribution” effort. Keep your eyes peeled for more information.

### **Lifetime Achievement Awards**

During our last Committee Meeting (held on 29 July) we discussed the need for a set of requirements for eligibility for a Society Lifetime Achievement Award (LTA). Two have been issued thus far (one to Barbara Fouche, the second to Roy Aiken) – and I am sure we can all think of many people who deserve such an award – but truth be told we all have varying reasons why people should get one.

We have to be consistent, and in response to this we have tasked Ken Brown to develop the first draft of the Society LTA "Requirements List". Once written, we will be lobbying it around within the Committee, before "casting it in concrete". We will then share the contents with all of our members, and also put it on the Website.

All ensuing LTAs will then conform to the published LTA Requirements, so as to ensure that fairness and transparency is maintained throughout the process.

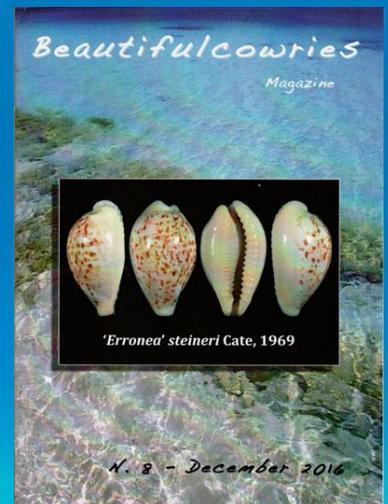
In addition, once we have the official and published list of Requirements, anyone will be most welcome to nominate Society Members for an LTA.

### **New Publications**

#### Cypraeovula

A word of congratulations to our Society VP, Roy Aiken, for having his article on two new *Cypraeovula* subspecies and one fossil species, published in Beautiful Cowries Magazine no 8 (December 2016). Roy provided descriptions, supporting data and specimens for the article on the two new subspecies (*Cypraeovula capensis cineracea* Aiken, 2016 and *Cypraeovula coronata infantensis* Aiken, 2016, as well as descriptions, supporting data and specimens for the article on the fossil species (*Cypraeovula mauvei* Aiken, 2016).

For those wishing to obtain a copy of Beautiful Cowries Magazine no 8, containing the article, please contact Roy (his details are on the Website).



#### Next Strandloper Journal

Our resident Editor, Ken Brown, and his faithful Assistant Editor and "worker of magic", Alwyn Marais, are hard at work on the next edition of *The Strandloper*. We already have all the material and the hard work of editing, formatting and beautifying is now in progress.

We should have the publication ready for distribution by November 2017 latest.

### **In Closing**

Happy shelling, and remember, save up for Christmas – hard as it may be to comprehend, there is more to life than shells!☺

Sincerely,

Andre Meredith  
President, SCSA

15 August 2017