

THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

CIRCULAR NO. 47

NOVEMBER, 1963

PAGE 1.

(Re-printed 1977)

Edited by Leola Kerr.

MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 19th November at 8 p.m. in the Lecture Room of the S.A. Museum. As this is the Annual General Meeting and the last of the year, we hope that all members will make a special effort to attend. The shells for display will be Olividae, Hapidae and Marginellidae (Barnard p. 57 - 59). There will be a "bumper" tea, provided by the Council and a good film. Please bring the Agenda with you.

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A G E N D A

1. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
2. Matters arising from the minutes.
3. Brief reports by the Secretary, Treasurer and Librarian.
4. Amendments to the Constitution:
 - a) In item 20 insertat an Annual General or.
 - b) Items 8 and 9. Fees It is proposed to raise the subscriptions of Ordinary Members from R1 to R1.50; Corresponding Members from 75 cents to R1, and Student Members from 50 cents to 75 cents. The entrance fee will remain the same.
5. The new Council.

	<u>Present Council</u>		<u>Proposed New Council</u>
President	Dr K.H. Barnard		Prof J.H. Day
Vice President	Dr F. Talbot		Dr F. Talbot
Secretary	Mrs L. Kerr		Mrs L. Kerr
Treasurer	Miss M. Kempthorne		Miss M. Kempthorne
Members	Mrs C. Connolly		Mrs C. Connolly
	Mr D. Freeman		Mr J. Dichmont
	Mr J. Grindley		Mr D. Freeman
			Mr J. Grindley
Country Members	Mrs H. Boswell	- Transvaal) The same
	Mr P. Elston	- Natal	
	Mr D.H. Kennelly	- Border	

6. Election of new members of the Society
7. Proposal " " " " " "
8. The Christmas Party
9. Any other business
10. Tea interval - 10 cents
11. Film.

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RESOLUTIONS FOR THE A.G.M.

Any resolutions to be put to the A.G.M. must be sent in immediately to the Secretary.

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CHRISTMAS PARTY.

This year, our annual party will be held at Durbanville, at the home of the Rev. and Mrs Pinkham who have kindly invited us to have our "braai"

in their large grounds. Tickets will be 75 cents and may be bought at the meeting or on the night of the party. Friends will be very welcome. Please phone the Secretary, 77-5369, if you are coming, so that we can let Mrs Pinkham know the numbers for catering purposes. Tickets booked must be paid for, whether used or not. Please bring your own good cheer and also one shell, well wrapped up, so that we can have a 'lucky dip'. Younger members will be able to dance. The date - Friday, 6th December.

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OCTOBER CIRCULAR

No articles , no circular.

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MEETING AT THE S.A. MUSEUM. 24.9.1963

Apologies were received from Miss M. Kempthorne, Miss E. Kerr and Mr G. Swaneveld. We were pleased to welcome Mrs Helm from Great Brak River to the meeting.

The following were elected as members of the Society:

Mr C. Brown, 1 Athens Street, Kimberely.
Mrs J. Hall, Box 50, Bertemyn, Welkom, O.F.S.
Mrs J.F. Mason, Hotel Florence, Kei Mouth.

The following were proposed as new members:

Mrs J.R. Ackerman	proposed by	L. Kerr,	seconded by	M. Ackermann
Mrs H. Brooke	" "	C. Connolly	" "	L. Kerr
Mr R. Hutchins	" "	" "	" "	" "
Mrs B. Newton	" "	" "	" "	" "

The venue for the next Field Day was discussed and it was decided to hold it at Kommetjie on 20th October. There being no further business Mr G. Newman of the Division of Sea Fisheries gave us a talk on Haliotis midae, which was of interest to all. A film on diving was shown.

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FIELD DAY AT KOMMETJIE 20.10.1963

We were so glad to have Mr and Mrs B.L. Cock from Natal with us. The weather was a bit windy but did not interfere with our shelling. Jack Walker very kindly spent the morning in turning over large rocks so that our visitors could look for cones, etc. and they were delighted to find a few. Marginellas and other small shells were also found. The patellas in that area are very good and Clarice Connolly found a beautiful Patella barbara, so large that at first it was thought to be a P.tabularis, until the animal was examined. Altogether, we had a delightful morning.

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MEETING AT THE MUSEUM 22.10.1963

Dr Talbot who was in the chair, welcomed Mr & Mrs B.L. Cock to the meeting.

The following were elected as members of the Society:

Mrs J.R. Ackermann, P.O. Box 9, Knysna.
Mrs H. Brooke, 17 Argyle, Kenilworth, C.P.
Mr R. Hutchins, 10 Ravensworth Road, Claremont.
Mrs B. Newton, 7 Jayreen Court, Mains Ave., Kenilworth.

The following were proposed as new members:

Mrs J. Hearle	proposed by	H. Jefferies,	seconded by	L. Kerr
Miss A. Lambert	" "	P. elston	" "	E. Dee
Mrs C.M. Watters	" "	D. Kennelly	" "	M. Kempthorne
Mrs G. Webb	" "	H. Jefferies	" "	L. Kerr
Mrs D. Wolmarans	" "	L. Kerr	" "	M. Kempthorne

Janthina exigua Lam. This is a smaller species, distinguished by the ribbing.

Janthina umbilicata D'Orbigny. Appears to be fairly rare, as Dr Barnard remarks that only four specimens were found among very many exigua. The writer has only one specimen - small - which came from a point near Schoenmaakers Kop, Port Elizabeth.

Janthina prolongata Blainville. Synonyms: - globosa Swainson, nitens Menke and iricolor Reeve. Recognised by rather depressed spire and globose body whorl. The columella is long, sometimes forming an open canal with the lower part of the outer lip.

Janthina pallida Thompson. The writer has not seen this species, and, according to Loursen (1953), it is known only from north of the equator. Turton lists this from Port Alfred, but there is an element of doubt over the identification.

Recluzia jehennei Petit. A genus closely allied to Janthina, with a wide distribution over the Indo/Pacific region. Specimens appear to be rare, and jehennei has been reported from Port Elizabeth, Tongaat (Natal), and the latest example was found at Gordon's Bay (False Bay) in 1960.

After a strong South east wind, specimens of Janthina are to be found in profusion on our beaches. Often the animal, and the egg float as well, will be found with the shell.

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On 25th February, 1963, your secretary found a live Recluzia jehennei on Muizenberg beach. See Circular No. 40, p.5. Editor.

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DOES NAUTILUS POMPILIUS LINN. OCCUR IN THE INDIAN OCEAN? by D.H. Kennelly

In Circular No. 26, pages 5 & 6, Dr A.C. van Bruggen contributed an article - "Identify your own Argonauts", in which a reference is made to two examples of Nautilus, held by the Port Elizabeth Museum, and reputed to have been found many years ago on the shores of Algoa Bay.

It is therefore of interest to report that this month, September, Miss Jackson of East London, brought in a damaged specimen of Nautilus pompilius, found at Kaysers Beach some 25 miles south of East London.

Investigation of the East London Museum records revealed two other damaged specimens in the collections, one of which was found at Kidds Beach by Miss M. Courtney Latimer (Director), and the other from Cove Rock recovered by the late Mr C.G. Woodward, a well known collector of East London. Mr Woodward found his specimen in August 1941, but no date has been recorded of the Kidds Beach example.

It may be added that these three specimens have all been found within 25 miles south of East London, and it would appear that examples of Nautilus pompilius are occasionally to be found on the Wild Coast.

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NATAL NOTES. by P. Elston

Two fishy but true tales from Natal:

No.1. Ed Dee our intrepid diver member, one day early in September whilst diving for shells, observes an angler with rod bent nearly in half evidently well and truly hooked onto an extremely solid rock and always ready to help those in distress, swims to below the stiving follower of the piscatorial art requesting his trouble. Sure enough a valuable spoon, plus plenty of expensive nylon line etc. well anchored some thirty feet below, so our hero volunteers to dive and release same, does so, freeing hook at somewhere about 35 feet. Not much breath left, up goes hook and line rapidly and just as our Ed is returning to the surface he spots a white shell on the sand beneath him, so offering a prayer to neptune, with one final effort grabe said shell and surfaces, aforesaid angler in a frenzy at long immersion of Eddie.

Moral is that a good turn is always rewarded as our member collected a beautiful live Fusus colus Linn., which now takes pride of place with Murex palmarosae Lamarck in his cabinet, the latter which he collected and established as living off Port Natal last year.

Story No.2 concerns our new member and Cypraea expert Ronald Benson:- At his first attempt, recovers from the stomach of a mussel cracker Latirus polygonus Gmelin, Babylonia (Eburna) papillaris Sowerby and Ancilla contusa Reeve. How lucky can one be !

We Durban members were fortunate enough to receive a visit from Mr and Mrs S. Boswell on their return from the Continent, "Our Helen" having spent a month working at the British Museum. We hope she will soon have the time to tell members of her experience and knowledge acquired. Members can be assured that Helen has never been in better health for years and welcome them both back to sunny South Africa.

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BORDER NOTES. by D.H. Kennelly

All Border members were shocked to learn of the passing of our well known collector "Dirk" Ackermann, who has become so widely known as the owner of the Shell Museum at the Round House, Camps Bay.

Our Society has suffered a grievous loss of a good and enthusiastic member, moreover one who was a foundation member, and sponsored the writer when he joined the Society in June 1958.

"Dirk" will long be remembered by all who knew him.

Collecting in the Border area for the past month (August), has been hampered by bad weather. The writer paid two visits to Bonza Bay to find Mrs M. Rix doing her best to get out and collect, but unfortunately with little result.

At the end of the month a visit to Kei Mouth, and the three days were spoilt by more bad weather. Mrs Hazel Jefferies, aided and abetted by Mrs Mason, and the Student Members, have also been battling. It is a pleasure to report that Mrs Mason has recovered from the fall she sustained recently, while on the reef.

Kei Mouth is certainly a place worth watching, for it seems to be the "furthest south" for shells found in the Natal/Pondoland area. As soon as more details are available, it is hoped to write up something of the recent finds at this locality.

Although Border members are few in number - actually eight all told - they certainly make up in enthusiasm for lack of numbers.

A project was started some time ago to obtain authentic data of Marine shells living at various localities on the Wild Coast. This idea has been taken up in an excellent manner, and at the time of writing Mrs Hazel Jefferies of Kei Mouth, had furnished a list of just on 100 species known to be living at Kei Mouth and vicinity.

With her usual good nature and ready co-operation, Mrs C.M. Connolly of Fish Hoek, sent in a list of 75 species collected at Queensberry Bay in June last. The Border members are very grateful to Mrs Connolly for this additional data, more especially as she is not resident on the Border.

At Kei Mouth the efforts of Mrs Jefferies have been aided by Mrs J. Mason, also Pam Holland, and non-collector friends.

Mrs M.A. Rix of Bonza Bay is busy assisting the writer in getting similar data from this locality, but unfortunately just when conditions are ideal for collecting, neither Mrs Rix nor the writer are able to get out - very frustrating to both of us and hence progress is slow, but data is gradually accumulating.

This authentic data of marine mollusca found living at any given locality, is of real scientific value, and nothing of the sort seems to have been attempted in bygone years. When sufficient information has been registered, it may be possible to get it published in detail, thereby placing these records on a sound footing for future reference.

Personalia: We have good news of our old friend and keen collector E.C. "Ginger" Wicks, who is now much better and able to get into town now and then. We hope that it will not be long before he is again seen busily collecting at Jeffreys Bay.

Mrs Rix of Bonza Bay is the proud possessor of a shell cabinet, and is busy cataloguing her shells, and placing them in the new piece of furniture. Having seen the collection, we forecast that Mrs Rix will be astonished at the total of the species collected to date.

Mrs Hazel Jefferies will be away from the Border area for about three weeks from the end of September. As Auntie Hazel will be visiting Jeffreys Bay, Mossel Bay and the Cape Peninsula, we anticipate she will return with a good many additions to her large collection.

Border members are agitating for another "get together", as the one in July last made everyone happy. At the moment no definite plan has been made, but the matter is not lost sight of, and possibly an outing on a Sunday may be arranged in the near future.

A start has been made at the Bonza Bay Hotel, to establish a representative collection of Bonza Bay shells. This is a very good idea as it will give all visitors an idea of what sort of shells are to be found.

Vernacular names for shells become more and more confusing. Locally our Turbo sarmaticus is called a Cockle - quite wrong as it is not a bi-valve, and perhaps Giant Periwinkle would be more correct. Also our Charonia pustulata is referred to as the Pink Lady by anglers, due probably to the salmon pink colour of the animals body. This last is fresh information to the writer.

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FROM KEI MOUTH TO THE WESTERN CAPE. by Hazel Jefferies

To all the very generous members of the Society that I met on this trip I wish to express my sincere gratitude, Mrs Bobby Richards, Mrs Leila Kerr, Miss Kempthorne, Mr Graham Ivy, Mrs Clarice Connolly, Mr P.J. le Roux, Mrs Molly Pelletier, Les and Rene Cook, and last, but by no means least, Jock and Ann Dichmont, for wonderful hospitality and so freely giving of their shells.

I have often read and heard of the Cape in Spring, this time I have seen it, and it is truly indescribable. We took the garden route by car to Hermanus calling at Uitenhage to visit Ginger Wicks, who by the way is very much better. We stayed at Jeffreys Bay, but were disappointed as there were not many shells, however I did get a few good ones. We then called at Mossel Bay, and saw Bobby Richard's Shell Museum which is well worth seeing. My friend and her car remained at Hermanus while I went on to Cape Town where I was met by my good friends Les and Rene Cook. We visited the Round House, - what a wonderful collection!

The Cocks then took me to the hotel at Kenilworth where I stayed a week. What a full and wonderful week! Being near the station, I was able to travel up and down the Peninsula several times, and collected at Muizenberg, St. James, Kalk Bay, Fish Hoek, Glencairn, Simonstown and Buffels Bay. At the latter two places, Jock Dichmont went skindiving, and got me some lovely specimens.

On my return to Hermanus we shelled at Sand Baai and visited Mr le Roux, he has a grand collection, and very well displayed. We also saw Mrs Pelletiers collection.

I have come back with hundreds of shells, and will be kept busy for a long time cleaning, sorting, labelling and placing in my collection.

Now comes a sad bit. Staying at hotels all the time, I was unable to properly clean the specimens I got alive. We came home via Bloemfontein in order to attend the Art Exhibition, where my travelling companion Peg Morkel, had pictures hanging. Going through the Karoo and the Free State the heat was terrific, and the smell coming from the back of the car became stronger and stronger. I bought a cannister of "Fresh Air" but it

did not help one atom. When we duly arrived home, I and my very smelly cases were literally thrown out on the street!!!

I visited the South African Museum twice, but unfortunately missed Dr Barnard both times. I also missed Mr Walker and Chris, - we called at their their home, but they were not in.

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CAPE NOTES. by L. Kerr

This month we have had the pleasure of visits from Mrs Hazel Jefferies and Mr and Mrs B.L. Cock, all of whom seemed to enjoy themselves.

Three of us, Max Ackermann, Joan Weakley and myself went off on a jaunt to Knysna in September. Max and I spent five days at Mossel Bay, shelling in other people's collections, and giving Bobbie Richards a hand with hers. We strongly recommend Bobbie's Museum to all members. Her collection is attractively presented in flat glass cases, the shells lying on sand. The walls are hung with fish-nets, embellished with coral, crabs etc. It deserves better publicity than it is getting at the moment. While in Mossel Bay we saw a school of whales close inshore, most interesting to watch.

We joined up with Joan at George and proceeded to Knysna, calling in to see Mr Cairncross and his medals and giant tortoises on the way. At Knysna we stayed at the Heads and made the most of our time, even going out at night with torches - very creepy, but great fun! We collected liveCassis, Polinices, Natica etc. and Joan found a small Tonna alive which still has to be identified. On our way home, we stopped at Still Bay for two days to collect the lovely Patella longicosta found there. To all our kind friends we say a big thank you, we had a wonderful time.

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