



SCSA Newsletter

March 2021

Dear Members and fellow shell collectors,

There is an age-old saying, “Rather late than never...” It feels like a lifetime since I’ve had the opportunity to pen a Society letter. As a permanent member of the SA National Defence Force I was fortunate to be counted as an “essential service provider”, once the Covid-19 pandemic and associated lockdown hit the country on 27 March 2020. This meant that I was not as locked-down as most of the country and had the opportunity to at least leave the four walls of my house on a fairly regular basis. But, it also meant that I did not have as much involuntary free time as many of my fellow South Africans did. But this was perhaps much more of an outright blessing than one in disguise. The Covid-19 pandemic certainly did much more than make people physically ill, the lockdown and ensuing devastation to jobs and forced isolation leading to irreparable damage within families all over the world. We can only hope and pray that this pandemic will be over soon and that we will not need to face something like this again within our generation.

But enough of the negative. I do hope that everyone reading this is well and that you have weathered the storm. I know of losses within our Society, both personal and job-related, but trust that recovery and healing is taking place. Our next Strandloper will allude to some of this.

We took a forced hiatus as a Society from all Club meetings while the pandemic was at its peak, and we also postponed our Annual General Meeting last year until a more favourable time. The Committee managed to meet in-person again on 13th March 2021 and we discussed a few key upcoming milestones. In short, I can share that we are planning on restarting Pretoria Club meetings on Monday 12th April 2021 – barring anything beyond our control such as soft lockdowns or re-instated restrictions on meetings or group get-togethers. So, for the Pretoria and Joburg Members, bookmark this date – and the Pretoria Club Chairperson, Maurice Evans, welcomes you back for what I am certain will be a great meeting! Maurice will be circulating a provisional Pretoria Club meeting schedule soon.

Speaking of newly announced dates, the Committee also decided to plan towards an AGM in September 2021. This will hopefully circumvent any remaining wintertime lockdowns that might crop up (following perhaps another of those inexplicably-predictable corona-waves...). Please do take note that it will be a voting year (the voting for 2020 was postponed due to Covid), and it should see the rejuvenation of the Committee, following some lengthy tenures for some of the Committee Members. More details to follow closer to the time.

The next Strandloper should be out in April, thanks to the hard work of our Editor-in-Chief Ken Brown, and his trusty aide and quality checker, Alwyn Marais. It promises to offer some great articles to our Members, to hopefully help rejuvenate the Conchological fires.

Well, that’s it for now! I hope to see (or at least hear from) our Members again as we hopefully now enter a more stable phase in the pandemic – time will tell. I encourage everyone not to give up on our lovely hobby, and to stay in contact with fellow-collectors. Hobbies are great stress-relief mechanisms, and are also wonderful conversation-starters, two things we all need in these times.

Until the next letter, happy shelling!

APU Smith

President, SCSA
24 March 2021

