



AGM 2018

President's Report



Dear shell friends,

I have come to the end of my term as President of the Society (Shell Collectors SA), and can, in all honesty, say that it had both ups and downs. Fortunately, I think the ups outweighed the downs, so, all-in-all, I can say I enjoyed it, and would probably repeat the whole enchilada if I were given a time machine. Of course, I would do *many* things differently – you often learn as you go along when entering into new territory, and most often experience remains the best teacher. Such is life!

Society Achievements: July 2016 to May 2018

I am not going to lament or laude too much of what has transpired over the course of the past two years – the many letters and memoranda sent to everyone during this time period should be testament to this. But, perhaps a short list (snapshot) of some of the things we, as a Society, achieved, can be shared below (in no particular order of importance or achievement):

- A new Society Website was developed and launched.
- The Society Facebook Page was revamped.
- Written correspondence Templates were developed (for letters, memos, agendas and meeting minutes).
- The rate of communications was increased:
 - 16 letters issued
 - 16 memos issued (8 to Committee; 5 to SCSA; 3 to External Parties)
- The Society Constitution was updated (twice).
- Our Society Magazine, *The Strandloper*, was revived, with 4 editions issued.
- Two editions of our Society News Letter, *Sea Bones*, saw the light of day.
- A total of 7 Committee Meetings were held.
- The draft of the first SA Shell Poster was developed.
- The massive Du Preez Collection was packed, relocated, sorted and catalogued.
- First efforts towards creation of a Society Reference Collection were made.
- The first three Du Preez-related auctions or giveaways have been held.
- New guidelines have been developed and issued for:
 - Shell Exhibits
 - Lifetime Achievement Awards
 - Articles for *The Strandloper* (in draft)
- Two AGMs were arranged and convened.
- Two Lifetime Achievement Awards were issued.



- Our 60th Anniversary celebrations were started.
- Our account information was updated and a large chunk of our savings was placed into a fixed-deposit account for increased growth.
- Twenty-one Club meetings were held (under the banner of the Pretoria Group, under Chairmanship of Maurice Evans).

NONE of the above would have been possible without our Society Members chipping in and lending a hand, but special attention should be placed on the Committee. Without the hard work, sacrifice and tireless dedication of these people, the above would not have taken place! I recently worked out that the Committee spent a total of at least 270 man-hours on the packing, relocating, sorting and cataloguing of the Du Preez Collection ALONE – all this on Saturdays – and this is only one of the bullet points above. I shared this in the last President’s Report, but in case you have forgotten who these people are, a piccie below:



Roy



Maurice



Anton



Ken



Christelle

Of course, following the closure of this year’s AGM, we will have a new Committee. It is hoped that the new Committee will feed off the energy and dedication of the outgoing one and continue to work towards improvement of our beloved Society.

As an outgoing “gift” to the new Committee, we have compiled a list of action items we think should receive attention – things we planned, but never got around to doing, simply because we ran out of time, or because other things received greater priority (we do this part-time, after all...). This includes:

- A Committee visit to the KZN Society Members.
- A Committee visit to the Western Cape Society Members.
- Marketing at schools.
- Development of the Society Reference Collection.

It is our hope that these matters will receive the attention deserved over the course of the next two years.

International Participation

Messrs Roy Aiken and Alan Seccombe flew the flag at a number of International events this year:

- Roy: Paris Shell Show (10-11 March 2018) and the Antwerp Shell Show (19-20 May 2018).
- Alan: Phuket Shell Show (24-25 March 2018) and the Antwerp Shell Show (19-20 May 2018).

The two gents participated as dealers, trading some beautiful South African specimens, over which many of the show participants swooned; our endemic shells still attract a lot of attention overseas! Alan also won second place for “Shell of the Show” at the Phuket Show this year, with an amazing *Afrozoila fultoni* (photos below).



Alan and his prize



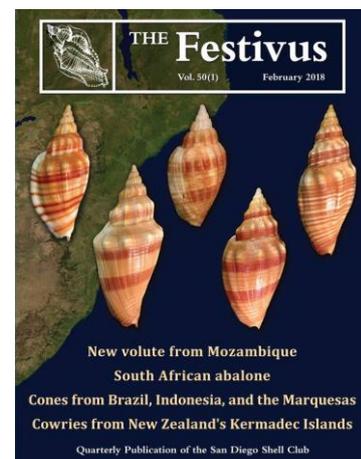
The stupendous *fultoni* that won him said prize...

In addition, Roy had an article published in the February 2018 edition of *The Festivus*, the official quarterly publication of the San Diego Shell Club. The article on the *Simililyria aikenii* complex will receive additional attention when Roy presents a talk on the very topic at the 2018 *Conchologists of America* Convention, in San Diego on 30 August 2018.

2018 AGM

By the time you read this, the 2018 AGM will be over and done. Congratulations to all who managed to win a trophy for a Shell Exhibit this year – and a hand of applause to ALL who took the time and effort to develop one. I know it takes a lot of effort – and there can be only five winners – but each and every participant deserves acknowledgement. So, we will be showcasing all the Exhibits in the next *Sea Bones* or *Strandloper* edition – whichever format is selected by the new Committee.

I sincerely hope that everyone who participated in the AGM Auction managed to score a few bargains – and congratulations to the person who won THAT shell – you know the one I am talking about!





Regardless, I hope everyone who took the time and made the effort to attend enjoyed the event.

In Closing

Having typed this final letter, I now realize that, in consideration of my two-year stint, the ups did indeed outweigh the downs – *by a mile!* Of course, I will keep on trying to develop new relationships with our Members (you don't have to be the Society President for that to happen...) and, when in your neck of the woods, will try to make contact.

Thank you for all the support (and lovely emails) I received while doing this. If there is one thing I have learned from this experience it is this: it may be the shells that bring us together, but it is the people that matter most!

I wish the new Committee all the best for the next term!

Till we meet again,

Happy shelling!

A handwritten signature in white ink, reading "Andre Meredith", is written over a background of a sunset over the ocean. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Andre Meredith
President, SCSA

04 June 2018