



SEA BONES #11

A newsletter from the Conchological Society of South Africa

“ Never miss a moment to pick up a shell, for it holds more than just the echoes of the ocean”

Dear Fellow Shellers,

The 2025 Conchological Society AGM was such a fabulous affair, that it is fitting to spend some time recording it in this 11th issue of Sea Bones. It felt a lot like some of the “good old days”, with an attendance of some 24 participants, in a really convivial atmosphere.



It was wonderful to have our Patron, Johan Marais with us, an honour indeed. Another lovely surprise was Maurice Evans, up from George, in his “swansong” visit as an outgoing committee member. It was good to have Mark Page with us again, as well. Ken Brown presented a number of merit certificates to members in recognition of their various contributions to a great year for the Society.



Howard Kreiner is thanked with gratitude for allowing us to experience his superb presentation of the *Haliotidae* of the 'West' i.e. Californian Coast (Presented to the audience locally by Roy Aiken). The story of the demise of populations, species illustrations and commercial exploitation over time were fascinating. ***Thank you, Howard.***



Our very capable adjudicator, Andre Meredith, deemed the following to be worthy of Trophies on the day:



- 1)-- Artistic -- *Cypraeovula capensis* pattern in resin – Gill Petzer
- 2) – Single species – *Bolma andersoni* , in memory of Barbara Fouche – Roy
- 3) – Scientific – Jelle -- Volutes
- 4) – Helene Boswell trophy for overall winner – Gill Petzer-- C capensis .



It is important here, to acknowledge Henk Smit, for his continuous commitment to photography at all our meetings. many thanks, Henk.

It was a voting year, and so the new group to steer the Conchological Society into the future is :

President	: Roy Aiken (<i>front</i>)
Editor Strandloper	: Ken Brown (<i>far right</i>)
Treasurer	: Gill Petzer (<i>2nd from right</i>)
Secretary	: Henk Smit (<i>back left</i>)
Additional member	: Andre Meredith (<i>3rd from right</i>)
Scientific officer	: Alwyn Marais (<i>2nd from left</i>)



The new President presented to Ken Brown & Anton Groenewald, in a way of thanks, a copy of the Journal *Argonauta Monographs Clio XXXVIII 2025 N. 16*, which he recently authored, recording and illustrating the notable and exciting discovery of a new, viable population of the very rare *Cochlitoma cinnamomea*, along with some very nice examples of the species for them, as well.





(*Cochlitoma cinnamomea* from Villiers, Free State)

In addition, some superb specimens of *Cochlitoma donaikenii* were also presented by Roy Aiken, from a fantastic discovery of the species, that had been collected over a period of 12 years in Richards Bay.



(*Cochlitoma donaikenii* from Richards Bay, Kwazulu-Natal)

A ‘theme’ for the year/s ahead was introduced, and that is “LET’S HAVE FUN”. often, things get too serious in hobbies. As Americans might say: let’s “lighten up”, and make our hobby a bunch of fun.

We missed John Hobbs of Cape Town, and wish him a full recovery from his recent procedure. Jelle Lammers braved the cold, but left early due to the effects of his current treatment/s. We wish him a path to health going forward.

The auction was once again a roaring success, because of the enthusiastic participation of so many of the members. Much fun was had, and some absolute bargains were obtained.



It would be remiss not to acknowledge the delightful lunch that Shirley Webster delivered, and cudos to Gordon Webster for the ongoing free use of the hall for our Pretoria meetings.

My thanks go to Mark Page for his usual collation, proof reading, etc, for this Sea Bones.

We would like to congratulate one of our members, now residing in England, Alan Seccombe, who has become President of the British Shell Collectors Club, and wish him “*voorspoed*” as he takes these reigns in England. He has mooted the idea that UK members receive “The Strandloper” for a year, and SA members receive their *Pallidula* magazine in exchange.

Internationally, comes the news of the description of two new species of *Fasciolaria* from South Africa. In *Conchyglia* 56 (1-2), 2025, Roland Hadorn has described *Fusinus praealtus*, and *Benimakia onyx*.

Roy Aiken --- July 2025