

# **SEA BONES**      **NO . 2**

A Conchological newsletter from Roy Aiken in South Africa

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**“ In nature , we find patterns , designs and structures , from the most miniscule particles ,to expressions of life discernable by human eyes , to the greater cosmos . These inevitably follow geometric archetypes which reveal to us the nature of each form and its vibrational resonances . They are also symbolic of the underlying metaphysical principal of the inseparable relationship of the part to the whole . The underlying oneness of nature’s geometry provides us with a continuous reminder of our relationship to the whole , a blueprint for the mind to the sacred foundation of all things created . “**

**Shells must surely represent one of the most exquisite ways of entertaining the above thought.**

- 1. A key reason for this newsletter is to announce the AGM. It is to be held at Laerskool Uitsig , The Reeds , Centurion , on Saturday October 16 ,2010 , from 10h00 am. An appeal is hereby made to all those who love shells , to join us ,and furthermore , to take part in our annual exhibition as well.**
- 2. Our chosen theme this year is “ Shells, with a theme of your choice”. For example , flowers, stamps ,gemstones, insects ,things from the sea ,items from the beach ,etc. An Agenda for the meeting is attached for your kind information.**
- 3. We are offering something special this year, in the form of a beautiful set of coffee mugs that we have termed –“ The Big Five “. Each mug has a carefully chosen endemic species from a different family/genus. The mugs will display a dorsal and ventral aspect of the species illustrated ,with different background colouration .**
- 4. Alwyn Marais was on the Natal coast again this year for the Winter Shootout ,and kindly put together this report on the event:  
“ The Winter Shootout is an underwater photographic competition held annually in Natal and has grown to be the second largest competition of its kind in South Africa.This was the third year that the Society was invited to be part of the competition and was represented by Alwyn who was a Judge**

**convener and also a judge for the shell category. It is the aim of the Society to get more people involved, not only in collecting shells, but also to photograph them, increasing awareness and protection of our Molluscan fauna.**

**In the competition we have seen a steady increase in the number of entries in this category and an increase in species variety seen by divers. This was a particularly good year for tiger cowries as no fewer than seven photos were entered depicting this species in its natural environment. It was obvious that the 'big shiny shells' are still the favourite among divers. Some well camouflaged bivalves and cones were also photographed, which was exciting, as they are not easy to spot underwater. It shows that there is a growing awareness of the many shell species that occur on our coast.**

**We trust that as more and more people get exposed to our hobby, especially the diving fraternity who already have a love for the marine environment, that they will also become involved in the Society, to the benefit of all who share the joy of our rich Molluscan heritage. “**

**5. Planned activity for the rest of the year is as follows;**

**Durban Group -**

**09 October – local AGM – Guest of honour Val van der Walt, who celebrates her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 17 October.**

**13 November – New additions and interesting shells.**

**05 December – Christmas luncheon at Cutty Sark Hotel, Scottburgh**

**South Coast Group -**

**25 September – Ramsgate Retirement Centre – Talk by Rina on shell name changes.**

**23 October – local AGM – Outing to Southport beach**

**November – unplanned**

**05 December – Cutty Sark Hotel**

**Pretoria Group -**

**13 September – talk by five members on shells that have meant something to them**

**16 October – Pre-meeting to the AGM, display of exhibits, guest speaker to be starting early. We are indeed grateful to our guest speaker this year, Charlie Scalliet. Not only is he a good speaker, he is an expert in the field of underwater photography, and has gathered a beautiful collection of undersea pictures which he hopefully will be sharing with us. This is a must for anyone who has an interest in taking underwater photos, let alone experiencing the wonders of the deep blue from an armchair.**

**08 November – Riddle night, with each member to bring along a gift for the occasion. There will be a really exciting announcement :-**

**We will be privileged during the evening, to be part of an historical official launch of an absolutely stunning new book, covering certain main families of South African Gastropods. At least one of the key authors will be sharing something of the trials and tribulations experienced during the production of what is surely to be a definitive addition to South African conchological literature. Please make every effort to attend this.**

6. The Strandloper will be out soon ,and will again be a bumper issue , equating to at least two bulletins in one. The gathering of articles ,compilation thereof ,as well as the graphics required for the current superb standard of our official mouthpiece is a formidable task , which has involved time consuming effort in areas where professional expertise was required to evaluate and review certain information for scientific accuracy. This is all done currently on a completely voluntary basis.

An appeal is made once again to members for submission of articles for review, with the idea of inclusion in forthcoming Strandlopers. Furthermore,we ask all members to send us any possible current information on Genus changes ,new species names ,locality extensions ,etc.

7 . To finish with , some history from the fascinating files of the late Olive Peel :-

During the 1800's objects d'art were fashionable and everyone wanted the finest cabinets of these curiosities in Europe. So it became very fashionable to import anything from inlaid boxes and trays to sewing tables, chairs, tableware, curios, and of course, shells. An ambitious young man named MARCUS SAMUEL established a company to trade with the Orient in 1833. He became very intrigued with the colourful shells brought home by the sailors from distant lands and so he mounted them on boxes and offered them for sale. They proved such a tremendous success that he took in his brother Samuel Samuel as a partner. As a sideline the Samuels began to deal in the sale of kerosene. With advent of the new 'paraffin oil' lamps and later on the combustion engine, they soon had a roaring trade in oil. Upon the death of his father, Marcus junior took over the business. In 1892 he ordered eight tankers, and named the first one S S MUREX after the beautiful murex shell.

In the meantime the Samuels and the Royal Dutch Company were competing with each other in the oil business. In 1897 the Samuel's business became such a success that they formed yet another company which they called The Shell Transport and Trading Company Limited. In 1907 the two companies of Royal and Samuels amalgamated.

THE SHELL OIL COMPANY used as its first emblem the TELLINA RADIATA. Although the shape has changed over the years, SHELL has since 1904 kept as its emblem, the PECTEN. The Scallop on the present day letterhead of the company's stationery is a fossil Pecten.

As Shell developed new companies, so each one named as its trademark, a shell. Aboard each Shell vessel, a specimen of its namesake is mounted in a glass case.

Yours in Conchology,

Roy Aiken

# **CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA**

## **AGENDA: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2010**

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**VENUE:** Laerskool Uitsig, The Reeds, Centurion

**DATE:** Saturday 16 October 2010 **TIME:** After Pretoria Group Meeting

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- 1 **WELCOME, ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES.**
2. **HONOURING MEMBERS THAT PASSED AWAY**
- 3 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AGM held on 27 June 2009**
- 4 **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**
- 5 **25 YEAR MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES**
6. **MANAGEMENT REPORTS**
  - 6 .1 **President's Report**
  - 6 .2 **Financial Report**
  - 6 .3 **Strandloper: Editors Report**
  - 6.4 **Feedback from the Groups**
7. **EXHIBIT – Judging will take place and the winner announced during teatime.**
8. **GENERAL**
- 9 **THANK YOU'S**