
Conchological Society of South Africa

19 Toseli Street
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1900



Dear fellow member

Greetings

I am not entirely sure why, but I find myself in the shoes of the presidency of the Society. These are indeed enormous shoes to fill, and I am sure you will join with me in thanking our immediate past leadership.

I have no doubt that Andre Meredith was an extraordinarily good and gifted President. Not only did he lead by example but was a remarkable diplomat and always worked for the good of the Society, even when difficult situations arose – as they always do! Many of us would be astounded at the complex politics that a small Society such as ours can generate, and the burden of skillfully managing a group such as ours has highlighted Andre's consummate skills.

Yet there have been many unsung heroes in our Society: Maurice has worked tirelessly and selflessly for many years to ensure that the Society prospers, whilst Alwyn has been a backbone and intellectual custodian of the Society for so long that his name will always be inextricably woven into the fabric of the Society. Anton has been our stalwart for many years too, and his quiet dedication and reliability have always been there for us to rely on. It is great that we have new blood in the Society willing to give of their time and efforts to our Society, and Gillian is an asset and a blessing to have on our leadership team as well.

Yet there are so many other leaders, from Gordon, Roy, John and Petro who all lead our regional clubs, to each and every speaker and participant at meetings: we are a Society that exists and thrives through the participation of each and every one of us.

For those of you who could not make our last Annual General Meeting, I would like to introduce you to our new management team for the next two years. I am the President, with Gillian Petzer as our Treasurer, Anton Groenewald is our Secretary, Alwyn Marais is the Editor of the Strandloper and our Scientific Officer and Maurice Evans and Andre Meredith are additional committee members.

The road ahead will no doubt be full of surprises and challenges, but I think its a time to realise that what we are all about is our hobby, our passion and our interest. Some of us are academics, some are reasearches, some of us are simply collectors, and there is a place for all of us in this great diversity and divergency, and no one of is us in any way greater or lesser than the other for our own special place in the Society. We all need to celebrate our belonging.

If I look to our goals for our next term, it would be for us to focus on keeping our interest kindled, and to

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grow our membership. In particular, it remains vital for us to invest in getting younger membership. I am committed to starting several conchology school clubs in the Johannesburg area where I live, and to inculcate a new passion for conchology in a more informal setting, and hopefully also in other urban areas with other members of our Society helping. A medieval mystic once said that there is only one way to live, and that is to be “fully alive”.

While we will chat regularly, my constant prodding to us all will be to more than just passive spectators in conchology: let us revel and celebrate in what it means to be “fully alive”.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or any committee member – we are all part of this team and journey together.

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Brown', enclosed within a large, horizontal oval flourish.

Ken Brown
President
26 June 2023