Dear shell collectors, dealers and other conchologically-inspired parties,

This is the first note to remind all paid-up and active Members of Shell Collectors SA that the 2017 Annual General Meeting has been scheduled for the 20\textsuperscript{th} May 2017. The venue will still be confirmed, but the usual Netcare Pretoria East Hospital board room has been provisionally booked (thanks to Anton Groenewald for this).

As always, we will run through the usual plethora of “meeting-related items”, but we will also be graced with the presence of our former Societal President, Mr Alan Seccombe, who will be treating us to an informative talk on \textit{dredged seashells}.

It is not a voting year, so a bit more time will be spent on \textit{dealing}. I am hoping to coax more shell dealers to the event, so if you want to broaden your collection, then come to the AGM, even if it is just for the shells and treats afterwards! We are aiming to repeat the success of the 2016 AGM \textit{shell auction}, and also spice things up with a small \textit{raffle}. So, to all collectors, there will be plenty of ways to strengthen your collections, without too many expenses.

Finally, we are inviting all of our members attending the AGM to participate in the yearly AGM Shell Exhibition. We usually have a theme (or a list of themes) for the Exhibition, but we have decided to make things very simple this year – hopefully to make it more accessible to all – so the theme for the 2017 AGM Shell Exhibition is:

\textbf{Let Your Imagination Run Wild}

Anything shell-related will be eligible for entry into this year’s Exhibition. Of course, to stand a chance to win one of the floating trophies, entrants will have to pull out all the stops and develop an Exhibit worthy of a prize, which will require attention to the following details, as a start:

- Layout and presentation
- Accuracy of data
- Completeness of data
- Originality
- Creativeness
- How the exhibit ties in with the title of your chosen theme

So, put on your thinking caps, get out the hardboard and Ponal, and get creative!

We will provide more guidelines as time progresses, but we are releasing the theme early on in the year, because preparation of a shell exhibit can take time. We are giving everyone sufficient time to plan and prepare, and looking forward to see what our members come up with this year. Surprise us!

The committee will release more information on the AGM (including important things like the Agenda) as time progresses.

In the meantime, keep a lookout for our new SCSA Website, which should be up and running within the next week or two. We will release a separate note on this once ready.

23 January 2017