Dear shell friends,

It may be difficult to comprehend, but we are already racing towards the middle of the year! Just a blink and we will be there – which makes the necessity and urgency of this letter even of greater importance. Mid-year events traditionally include our Society Annual General Meeting, and this year is no different. At our most recent Committee Meeting it was decided that our 2019 AGM would be held on 1 June 2019.

Here then all the details I can share at this point I time.

**Date, Time and Venue**

The 2019 AGM:

- Will be held on 1 June 2019.
- Will start at 10:00 (10AM).
- Will be held in one of the board rooms of the *Unitas* Netcare Hospital, Centurion (*note venue change*...).

We are in gratitude to our Secretary, Anton Groenewald, for once again securing our venue for us. Anton is also busy with catering arrangements and we will share the details once they have been finalised.

**Shell Exhibits**

Another tradition which we will be continuing is the displaying of Shell Exhibits. I would like to encourage our members attending the AGM to prepare at least one Exhibit. It is always amazing what our Members come up with! We do not have a specific theme for this year’s AGM (we decided to leave this up to the Exhibitors), but adjudication will, as before, take place within one of the following four Categories:

- *Category 1: Artistic*
- *Category 2: Scientific*
- *Category 3: Beginner*
- *Category 4: Shell Family, Genus or Species*

As on previous occasions, an award (a “floating trophy”) will be issued within each Category. In addition to the formal awards, we are re-introducing the “Shell Exhibitor Participation” award, which is essentially a certificate of appreciation to be awarded to each and every Exhibitor. This award will be
issued to all Exhibitors, regardless of whether they have received an award or not.

As in 2018, you may enter as many Categories as you wish, but an Exhibit cannot “span” multiple Categories; you need a separate Exhibit per Category.

Please be sure to review the Society’s Exhibit Guidelines for additional information, especially if you are gunning for an award.

Agenda

We have not drawn up an Agenda yet but suffice to say it should be an uncomplicated affair, as it is not a voting year, and we do not have any pertinent issues to debate (such as updates to the Constitution). Part of our 2019 Agenda will, however, include the following two items:

• An AGM Talk
• An AGM Shell Auction

It is always enjoyable to be entertained with an AGM shell talk; we are still finalising details with the speaker, and the Agenda will contain the splash once finalised. For those of you reading this who were fortunate enough to
have attended the 2018 AGM Auction – well, suffice to say it will probably be a while before we have a repeat of that mammoth event. Nevertheless, we will be hosting another AGM Auction, and there will certainly be some more lovely shells at bargain prices!

We will distribute the formal Agenda, containing the final details of the above, soon.

**In Conclusion**

Not much to say except: diarise the date, start preparing your Exhibits and start saving for the Auction! I hope to see many of the old faces – plus many new ones – at the 2019 AGM.

Till the next update,

Happy shelling!

Andre Meredith
President, SCSA

12 April 2019