



SEA BONES # 9

A newsletter from Shell Collectors South Africa (SCSA)
(Previously the Conchological Society of Southern Africa)

Dear Fellow Shellers,

The “fresh conchological wind” mentioned in Sea Bones 8 have certainly blown extra life into the SCSA, and this is no small way due to the dedication, enthusiasm and leadership of our current President, Andre Meredith. His comprehensive presentation at our recent AGM focussed on highlights as follows:

- Newly launched SCSA website, Jan 2017. Total redesign, fresh approach
- New Facebook page. New logo, title, contacts and info.
- Increased written communication
- Presidents correspondence, regular flow
- Standardisation, new logo design, templates for future communications
- Completely updated constitution. Fine work by Ken Brown.
- Receipt, packing and temporary storage of the M. L. du Preez collection, still to be sorted.
- Two Lifetime Achievement awards, to Barbara Fouche, and yours truly. My personal, grateful thanks to those involved in this decision. I remain in gratitude of this honour.



The photo of Barbara shows her holding a **Bolma andersoni**, named for a direct relative who was in charge of the trawling off Durban decades ago. It is resting on her ongoing and amazing work on “Personal names in Southern African Conchology”

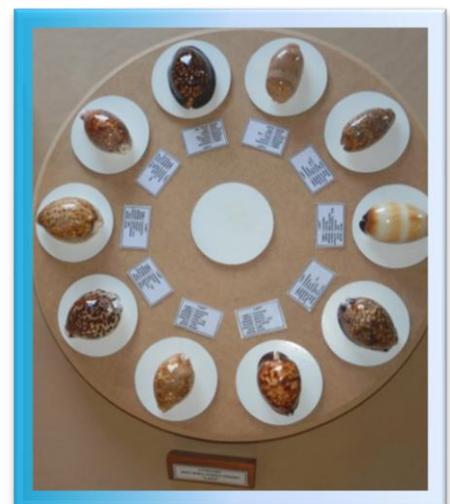
The Shell Collectors South Africa will continue with the Sea Bones as informal newsletter. Two editions of the Strandloper were sent out over this period to members of the SCSA. Thank you Ken and Alwyn!

Back to the AGM, that was held on the 3rd of June. Wonderful shelly times for us all... please peruse these photos of the exhibits, which were of high standard, again.



*"See what a lovely shell,
Small and pure as a pearl
Lying close to my foot,
Frail, but a work divine,
Made so fairly well
With delicate spire and whorl.
How exquisitely minute,
A miracle of design.*

*What is it? - A learned man
Could give it a clumsy name,
Let him name it who can,
The beauty would be the same...
Tennyson...*





Winners of the Categories were as follows:

Best Scientific: Jelle Lammers

With: Fan-Tastic



Best Artistic: Andre Meredith

With: African Cypraeidae



Best Shell Family: Maurice Evans

With: The Genus Polymita



Best Overall Winner: Andre Meredith

With: Cypraeidae



The talk by Alan Seccombe on dredging was fascinating, and highlighted the fact that we probably have the most sophisticated dredging operations in the world. There are a multitude of stunning species we would never get to enjoy, were it not for this small group of dedicated seamen.

Turning to international exposure, here is a collage of pics taken at the European shell shows. It should be noted that the Antwerp Show broke an unratified world record for the biggest shell show, ever, based on metres of tables rented (404 metres). Wonderful multinational show with amazing displays of shells, see pics....

European Shell exhibits



... Your scribe was contacted by a Cape Town Film-producer, and ended up being the technical “conch” advisor to a lovely story which was filmed in May. More on this in the next Sea Bones...

I remain, yours, in coloured spirals of calcium carbonate.

Roy Aiken

June 2017

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