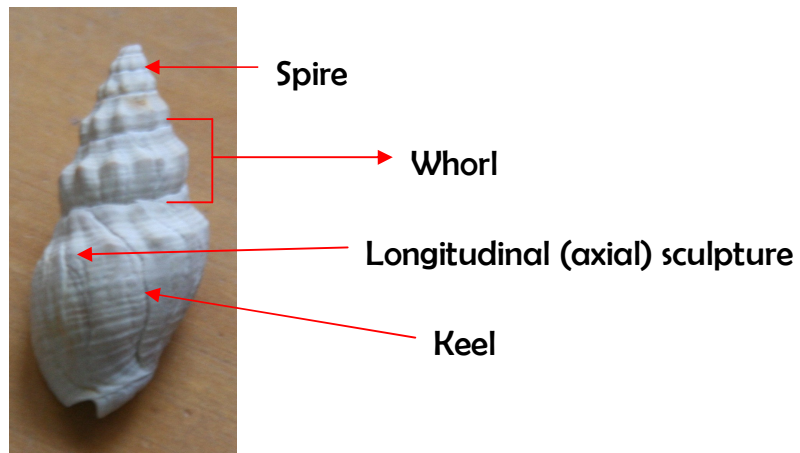
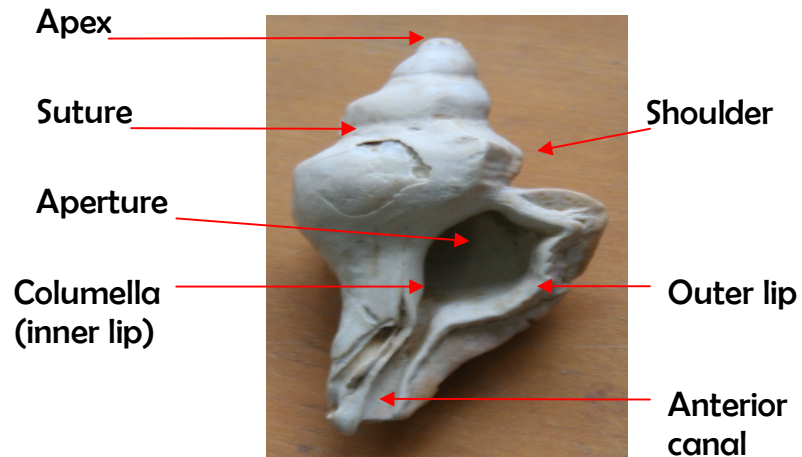


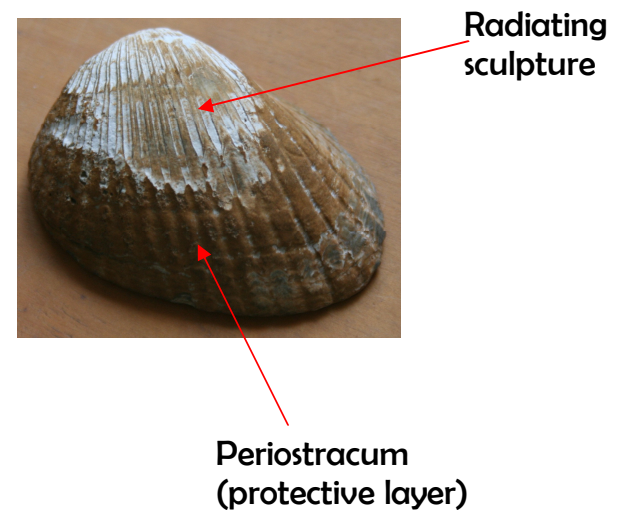
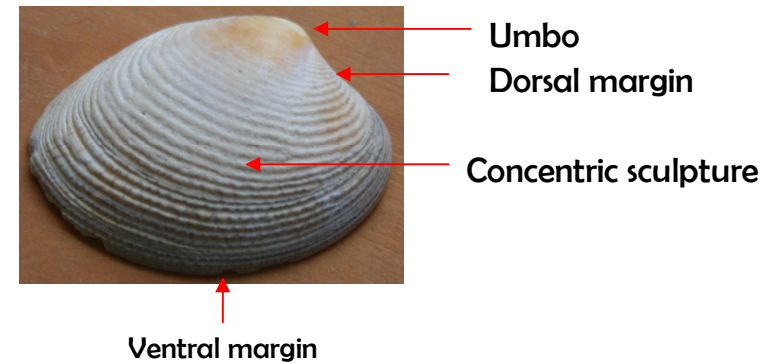
# GENERAL SHELL INFORMATION

The two most common types of shells

## 1. Gastropods



## 2. Bivalves



## INTRO

- \* The shells found on beaches are from animals called molluscs
- \* There are over 400 mollusc species living in South – East Australian waters
- \* These are divided into six classes; the two most common being the gastropods and bi-valves

Source:  
Seashells of South – East Australia.  
Patty Jansen  
Capricornia Productions, 2000

Constructed by  
Josh Davies

## GASTROPODS

- \* Most gastropods do not have a shell
- \* Those that do usually have them coiled, but some are cap shaped
- \* Each shell is unique (they all have different colours, markings etc)
- \* The height of the spire & number of whorls are all distinctive on a shell

## BIVALVES

- \* Consist of two parts called valves, held together by a ligament under the umbo
- \* Do not have the “snail” appearance of the gastropods
- \* Most bivalves have a periostracum that is a protective layer
- \* Most live buried in the sand: either under water or the beach
- \* Every shell is unique (e.g. different colour, texture & markings)

## SHELL REGULATIONS

- \* It is illegal to take shells from national parks or marine sanctuaries. Also, the Victorian Government discourages shells being taken from beaches and have very strong policies relating to this.
- \* They have developed three main reasons why they discourage shells being taken by the public from beaches.
  1. Habitat - Many gastropods use other shells after they have grown out of their own (e.g. hermit crabs).
  2. Formation of beaches - Shells contribute enormously to the production of beaches (i.e. sand).
  3. General amenity - If shells are removed from beaches then they become unavailable for the general public to appreciate

## ALTERNATIVES

- The government promotes and encourages the general public to examine, take photo's of and show others the great variety of shells they come across on Victorian beaches.