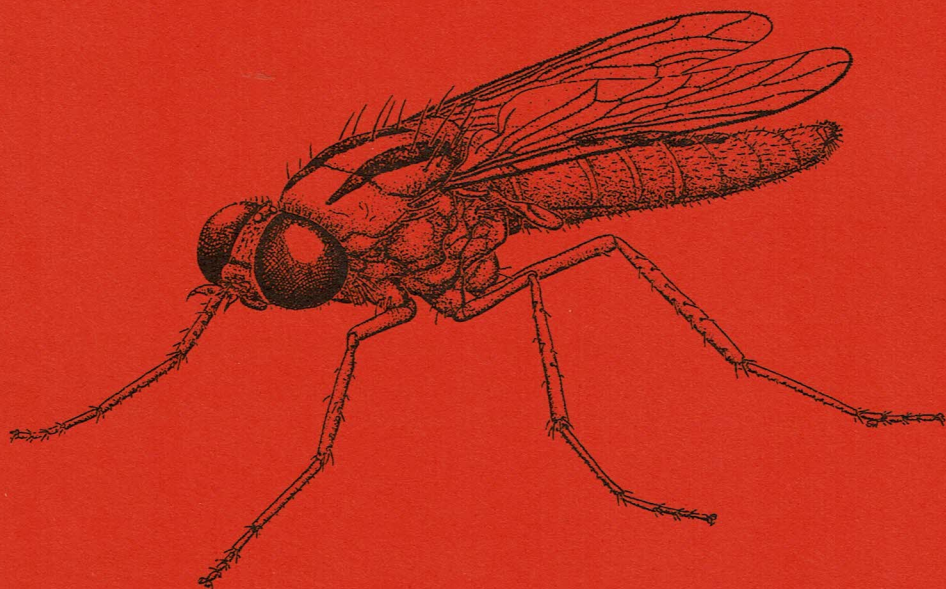




ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND NEWS BULLETIN



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Volume 25, Issue 9, December 1997

The **ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND**, since its inception in 1923, has striven to promote the development of pure and applied entomological research in Australia and particularly in Queensland. Membership is open to anyone interested in Entomology. The Society promotes liaison among entomologists through regular meetings and the distribution of a *News Bulletin* to members. Meetings are announced in the *News Bulletin* and are normally held in the Entomology Department, The University of Queensland at 6.30 pm on the second Monday of each month (March to June, August to December each year). Visitors and prospective members are welcome. Membership information can be obtained from the Honorary Secretary or other office bearers.

Contributions to the **NEWS BULLETIN** such as items of news, trip reports, announcements, etc are welcome and should be sent to the *News Bulletin* Editor.

The Society publishes **THE AUSTRALIAN ENTOMOLOGIST**. This is a refereed, illustrated journal devoted to entomology of the Australian region, including New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and islands of the south western Pacific. The journal is published in four parts annually.

EMBLEM: The Society's emblem, chosen in 1973 on the 50th anniversary of the Society, is the king stag beetle, *Phalacrognathus muelleri* (Macleay), family Lucanidae. Its magnificent metallic purple and green colouration make it one of the most attractive of all Australian Coleoptera. It is restricted to the rainforests of northern Queensland.

COVER: A stiletto fly belonging to an undescribed genus and species of Therevidae (Diptera: Asiloidea) drawn by Shaun Winterton. Shaun and David Yeates are currently working on the systematics on this family, which is extremely diverse in the woodland and semi-arid habitats of Australia.

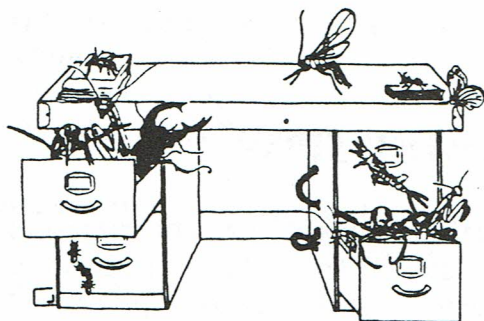


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The issue of this document does **NOT** constitute formal publication for the purposes of the "International Code of Zoological Nomenclature 3rd edition 1985". Authors alone are responsible for the views expressed.



GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Entomological Society of Queensland Inc. held in the Seminar Room of the CRC for Tropical Pest Management, Level 5, Gehrmann Laboratories, Research Road, University of Queensland, on 08 December 1997, at 6.30pm. Chaired by G. Gordh.

Attendance:

G. Daglish, V. Davis, M. Day, S. Evans, E. Exley, B.A. Franzmann, G. Gordh, M. Griffiths, C. King, J. King, C. Lambkin, J. Lamy, A. Loch, P. Mackey, E.N. Marks, S. McGrath, D. Schlipalius, O. Seeman, C. Simpson, A. Skevington, J. Skevington, G. Thompson, R. Van Klinken, D. Walter, S. Winterton, T. Withers.

Visitors:

L. Goss, K. Latimer, A. O'Toole, T. McAndrew, J. Robazza, D. White, I. Zeiner, W. Zeiner.

Apologies:

V. Brancatini, G. Maywald, M. Schneider, B. Sutherst, M. De Baar.

Minutes:

The Minutes of the last General Meeting were circulated in News Bulletin Vol. 25, Issue 8. It was move E. Reye, seconded E. Exley that the minutes be accepted with the following amendments:

The spelling of Jeff and Angela Skevington's surname was corrected.

Second last line of page 111 should read "...at Pinery Park..".

Third last line of page 111 should read "...Pipunculidae flies..".

Elections:

The following nomination was received at the last General Meeting and circulated in News Bulletin Vol. 24, Issue 8:

Narelle Power
4 Ingal Street
Wishart Q 4122

Nominated by J. Skevington
Seconded by C. Lambkin

Nominee was elected by a show of hands.

Main Business:**Notes and Exhibits****1. Heather Proctor, Arachnids 1998 Calendar and "What bug is that?"**

Arachnids 1998 - a calendar produced by the American Arachnological Society - is available for purchase from Heather Proctor at \$15 each. The calendar contains 12 colour photographs of spiders, scorpions, amblypygids and other arachnids from North, Central and South America. In addition, it shows the dates of birth of famous arachnologists from around the world.

For details, contact Heather at: Australian School of Environmental Studies, Griffith University, Nathan 4111 Queensland, Australia.

Email: H.Proctor@ens.gu.edu.au.

Heather then showed slides of 21 arthropods that she'd been unable to identify. The insects and arachnids originated from five countries: Canada, the US, Panama, Indonesia, New Zealand and Australia. The crowd of entomologists cleared up approximately 75% of the unknowns, but were stymied by a hesperiid-like moth from Arizona and what looked like a piece of cotton wool from Java.

2. Geoff Monteith, "The Australian Natural History Medallion"

Geoff Monteith exhibited the 1997 Medallion which he was presented with at a meeting of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria in Melbourne on 10 November. The Medallion is awarded annually "for furthering interest and knowledge in Australian Natural History". The FNCV is one of the oldest and most active natural history organizations in Australia. It established the Medallion Award in 1939 at the suggestion of, and with the financial backing of, benefactor J.K. Moir. Other clubs and societies around Australia are invited to nominate candidates for the Award and a committee selects the successful recipient from those candidates. Geoff's nomination was supported by both the Entomological Society of Queensland and the Queensland Naturalists' Club. Other Queenslanders to have received the Medal include Heber Longman in 1946, Pat Marks in 1981 (also nominated by Ent.Soc.Qld.) and Joan Cribb in 1994.

3. Dave Merritt, "Glow-worms"

Dave discussed his research program on glow-worms and showed a number of slides on the fascinating creatures.

4. Shaun Winterton, "Therevidae of the Cooloola region"

The Therevidae of a family of orthorrhaphous Diptera are of cosmopolitan distribution. The adults are nectar feeders which often are very effective mimics of wasp habits and behaviour. The larvae (maggots) are fossorial predators, and with their secondarily segmented body and long thin body they resemble worms. As part of a PEET program (National Science Foundation, USA) and Schlinger Foundation project we are studying the ecology, biology and systematics of the Australian Therevidae. In October 1996, We undertook a collecting trip to the Great Sandy National Park, Cooloola Section, to search for Therevidae. The collecting party, lead by David Yeates, included Jodie Christensen, Brian Weiss, Christine Lambkin and myself.

We stayed at Rainbow beach at night and collected in the adjacent National Park during the week we were there. Three different habitats predominate in the park: Heathland, open sclerophyll forest and rainforest. Collections using hand-nets and malaise traps were undertaken in all three habitats. Many of the species of Therevidae collected were undescribed at the genus level. In all twenty species were collected. Species collected in the heathland included: *Acatopygia pulchella*, *Acupalpa divisa* and *Anabarhynchus* sp. In the sclerophyll forest therevids such as *Agapophytus australasiae* (a tree-perching species) and *Ectinorhynchus* were collected. In the rainforest we found many female therevids of several species ovipositing into the sand in sunlit glades. These species included *Squamopygia fascipennis*, *Ectinorhynchus variabilis* and *Anabarhynchus* sp.

5. Chris Burwell, "Gondwanic' distribution of spongeflies??"

The Entomology Section of the Queensland Museum receives all sorts of strange enquiries ranging from a "flying prawn" (the day-flying hawkmoth, *Cephonodes kingii*) and radioactive bugs (adult fireflies, Lampyridae) to small, brown, six-legged insects which can turn out to be just about anything. In November, Robert Raven (Curator of the Spider Section) handed me a vial containing some curious, small, silken cocoons. They had come from "Gondwana Wildlife Sanctuary" in the heart of Southbank Parklands, South Brisbane and were apparently all over the surface of one of the artificial rock walls on the inside of the sanctuary.

On examining the cocoons I was stumped. Protruding from each was a pupal exuvium with mandibles and inside was the shrivelled remains of the cuticle of the last larval instar which appeared to have stylet-like mouthparts. I'd certainly never seen their like before. There was nothing else for it, I had to make a trip to Gondwana to see the situation for myself.

When Susan Evans and I arrived at the scene we were confronted with literally thousands of cocoons, mostly in crevices and irregularities in the rockface. What insect could be occurring in such enormous numbers without the larval stages being just as conspicuous? The adults had emerged from the

vast majority of the cocoons but after some searching we found a few unemerged cocoons and finally Susan discovered a larva. On our return to the museum we immediately put the larva under the microscope and eureka, it was unmistakable, it was a sisyrind neuropteran or spongefly.

The Sisyridae is a small family of Neuroptera with only six described Australian species. What makes sisyrinds stand out from the crowd is that they are the only neuropterans with truly aquatic larvae and stranger still, the larvae feed on fresh water sponges and bryozoans.

Running through the centre of the Gondwana sanctuary is an artificial fresh water stream fed by a large waterfall which plunges into a two metre deep pool. All the sisyrind cocoons are concentrated in the vicinity of the waterfall, although in some cases the larvae have travelled up to 10 metres from the water to their pupation site. So far we have been unable to locate any sponges or bryozoans in the pool or stream. However, we have swept several adult sisyrinds from vegetation lining the stream.

Unfortunately Gondwana will be closing down in January 1998, so if you want to see this remarkable sanctuary and its spongefly inhabitants you'd better be quick.

A vote of thanks was given by Dave Walter who said that Notes and Exhibits is always one of the more entertaining evenings both in variety of arthropods presented and their presenters.

There being no further business, the Senior Vice-President closed the meeting and invited members and visitors to the Christmas break-up.

Special Feature:

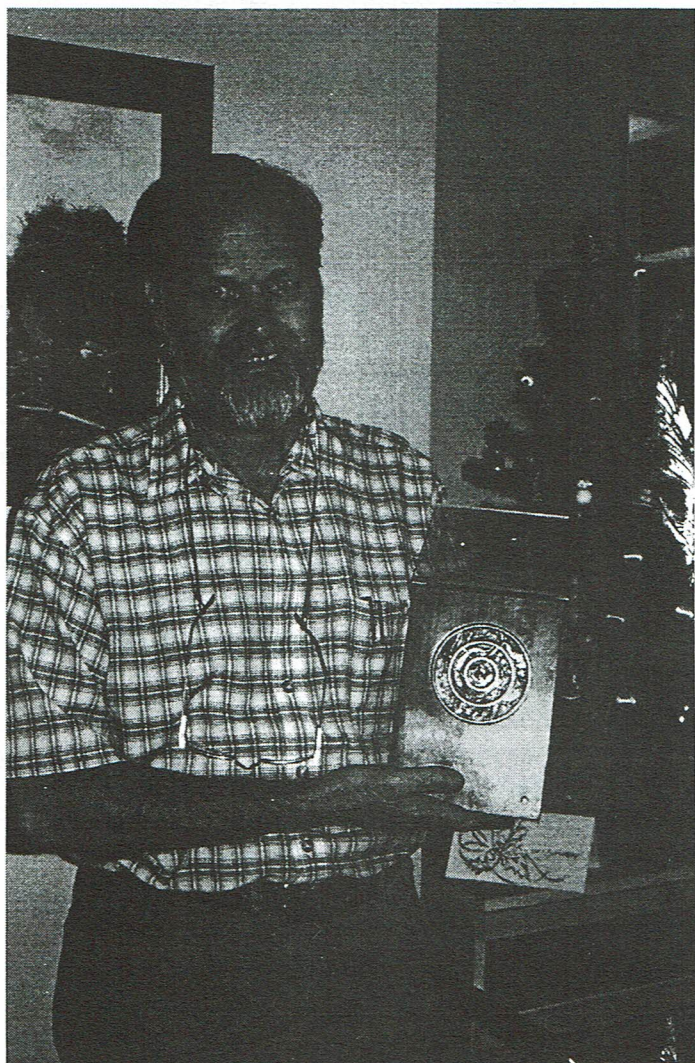
Geoffrey Blyth Monteith Winner of the 1997 Australian Natural History Medallion

The Australian Natural History Medallion is a prestigious award conferred by The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria (est. 1880) for '*contributions to the understanding of Australian natural history*'. Geoff is a most deserving winner of the Medallion as his contribution to Queensland's natural history, in particular, is outstanding and worthy of recognition.

Geoff has been Senior Curator of Insects at the Queensland Museum since 1978 and was previously Insect Curator at the University of Queensland. Geoff's interest is in native Australian insects, especially those of rainforests, those with unusual plant relationships and those of particular conservation interest. Geoff has lead or participated in many major field expeditions in Australia and other western Pacific countries. His most recent work has involved an extensive inventory and analysis of the insect fauna of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. Geoff has amassed an enormous, world-class collection of insects from which approximately 500 new species have been named. From the Wet Tropics region alone, 85 different authors have utilised his specimens in 123 different publications in which 226 new species were described. In appreciation of his efforts, 92 species of insects, spiders, mites, millipedes, centipedes, snails, and crayfish have been named after Geoff, and eight new genera have been based on his name. His own research has resulted in over 50 scientific papers in refereed journals.

Geoff is well known for his efforts to popularise insects to a non-specialist audience. His book *The Butterfly Man of Kuranda - Frederick Parkhurst Dodd* received the Whitely Award from the Royal Zoological Society of NSW in 1992 for best book published that year on the history of biology in Australia. The historic insect collection of F.P. Dodd which Geoff helped the Museum acquire was developed into a major travelling exhibition. Geoff has contributed to many other Queensland Museum publications including *Toxic Plants and Animals*, *Time for a Museum*, *Wildlife of Greater*

Brisbane, and Brilliant Careers: women collectors and illustrators in Queensland. Geoff's role in bringing insects into the lives of school children deserves special mention. He has co-presented the workshop 'Getting a Buzz from Insects' to a total of 1892 teachers in 21 centres in Queensland, and in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Darwin. Geoff appears regularly on television and has been involved in the production of 5 documentaries on Australian insects.



Geoff is a long-standing member of several scientific, natural history and conservation societies. He was a founding member of the Australian Entomological Society and held numerous positions within the society between 1971 and 1992, including News Bulletin Editor for 10 years. He received their inaugural Service Award in 1994. As many members will know, Geoff also plays an active role in the Queensland Naturalists Club.

There is no doubt that Geoff is an enthusiastic and talented entomologist and natural historian. Geoff was nominated for the Australian Natural History Medallion by the Entomological Society of Queensland and his nomination was supported by the Queensland Naturalists Club. On behalf of our Society - well done Geoff.

Lynda Muir
Honorary Secretary

NOTICE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

9 March 1998: AGM



PEOPLE AND PROJECTS



NEWS FROM QDNR

Alan Fletcher Research Station, Sherwood.

Ben Gray, a CTPM vacation scholar has commenced a project with the Lantana group, working on Lantana biological control agents attacking *Lippia alba*, an introduced weed.

Virendra Pratap has started work with Graham Donnelly, rearing *Algarobius* mesquite seed beetles. Graham recently visited *Algarobius* release sites in North-western Queensland.

Populations of the Groundsel bush leaf skeletoniser, *Buccalatrix ivella* (Lepidoptera: Lyonetiidae) continue to expand. In 1991, releases were made at Glass Mountain Creek in the Beerwah district and near Elanda Point at Lake Cootharaba. Establishment was confirmed in the areas surrounding the release sites in 1994. Recently, recoveries have been made from Groundsel bush growing on islands in Southern Moreton Bay.

Two officers from the National Plant Quarantine Service of Korea are visiting Indooroopilly as part of a two month study tour organised by AQIS. Mr Lee Sung Ho from the Treatment Research Division has spent time learning about quarantine treatments for horticultural produce with Bob Corcoran and Pauline Peterson. After Indooroopilly he will travel to Cairns to see the DPI fruit fly quarantine laboratory, then he will visit New South Wales Agriculture at Gosford and CSIRO in Canberra. Mr In-Tark Park from the Insect Research Division has been working with DPI taxonomists John Donaldson and Marlene Elson-Harris, and will travel to Canberra after finishing at Indooroopilly.

Work by Chris Freebairn and Dan Smith from Nambour has yielded several *Anagrus* wasps that may be useful of egg parasites of the citrus jassid. The wasps were collected from the Gayndah-Munduburra area where insect pest management practices may have been keeping their numbers low. Although it took a long time to find these native wasps the effort appears to have paid off. Shaun Hood from the Northern Territory has joined Geoff Waite at Nambour to work on the fruit spotting bug, which is probably the most important pest of fruit in eastern Australia after fruit flies. Avocadoes, lychees, custard apples and macadamias are among the Queensland crops attacked by this pest.

Frank Page (Applethorpe) and Christine Neale (Indooroopilly) have received permission to release *Pseudaphycus maculipinnus* for control of the grape vine mealy bug (*Pseudococcus affinis*). At the moment Frank and Christine are concentrating on building up large numbers of these parasitic wasps for release.



NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT
OF ENTOMOLOGY
The University of Queensland

David Yeates has left the department for six months of study leave at the North Carolina State University and the University of Illinois. He's visiting Dr Brian Wiegmann in North Carolina, where they will complete a manuscript on the phylogeny of Diptera, work on the 'Tree of Life' WWW project, and examine maximum likelihood methods of phylogenetic inference. In Illinois, Dave will visit Professor Mike Irwin, and will complete a manuscript on the phylogeny of the Therevidae and begin research on the biogeography of the major classes of Therevidae.

Gimme Walter is visiting Dr Hengeveld at the Institute of Forestry and Nature Research in the Netherlands, where they will discuss autecology. He then will visit Dr Hainan Gu at the Institute of Plant Sciences in Switzerland, where he will discuss prospects for extending joint research on *Helicoverpa armigera*.

Jeff Skevington is back in Canada for a couple weeks, but on his return he will spend a week in Hawaii looking at Pipunculidae type specimens in the Bishop Museum.

Chris Lambkin, Jeff Skevington, and Boof Yowieman spent one week at Mt Moffatt, where collecting was excellent, the heat sometimes unbearable, and Boof found his perfect match.



NEWS FROM THE QUEENSLAND INSTITUTE
OF MEDICAL RESEARCH
Mosquito Control Laboratory, Brisbane

Dr. Brian Kay and Peter Ryan (PhD scholar) have just returned from Orlando, Florida where they attended the Society for Vector Ecology conference. Brian spoke on '*Aedes aegypti* Down-under' and Peter

presented his work on the 'Epidemic vectors of Ross River virus in southeast Queensland'. Following the conference, Peter, who was awarded a Walter & Eliza Hall travelling scholarship, travelled to California to find out more about the arbovirus surveillance program in Florida.

Craig Jennings will be leaving QIMR early next year to join Redcliffe City Council. Craig is currently completing his PhD on 'Intrinsic and extrinsic factors affecting the vector competence of *Aedes vigilax* for Ross River virus'.

Bruce Russell and Tonya Watson are also currently completing their PhDs and will submit early next year. Bruce has been working on the importance of subterranean mosquito breeding sites in north Queensland while Tonya has been investigating the vector potential of *Aedes notoscriptus* for Ross River and Barmah Forest viruses.

Please Note:

Honorary Secretary, Lynda Muir, has a new phone number:

(07) 3289 2757

Please note:

The president, David Yeates, will be taking sabbatical leave from 4 December 1997 until 30 June 1998. He will spend most of his sabbatical with colleagues at the University of North Carolina (Raleigh). David will deliver his presidential address at the August 1998 meeting.

Notice of Special Meeting

Scientists, teachers, students, naturalists, and other interested people are invited to the following meeting co-sponsored by The Queensland Naturalists' Club Inc., The Entomological Society of Queensland and The Butterfly and Other Invertebrates Club Inc:-

Speaker: **Professor Jeremy McNeil**

Professor McNeil is visiting from Canada as a CSIRO McMaster Fellow. His professional interests include the physiology of migrating insects. Prior to this January meeting, he will have completed field work in North Queensland with Dr Don Sands, CSIRO Senior Principal Research Scientist.

Title of address:

Insect Migration with Special Reference to Butterflies and Moths

Chair: Mr Barry Jahnke,
President of the Queensland Naturalists Club Inc
and Biology teacher at St Peter's Lutheran College

Date: **Monday, 12 January 1998**

Time: 7pm for 7.30pm

Location: Queensland Museum, lecture theatre.
Entry is via the Dinosaur Garden, Grey Street

Note: Participants are encouraged to wear name tags to ease introduction.

Refreshments: tea, coffee and biscuits will be available after the meeting.

Meeting of New Reference Group

Australian Fritillary Recovery Team (provisional title)

n.b. This meeting is prior to Professor McNeil's address

This group includes representatives from the Queensland Naturalists' Club Inc, the Butterfly and Other Invertebrates Club Inc, Threatened Species Network (WWF/EA), State Department of Environment (Central and Moggill Regional Offices), Jacob's Well Environment Education Centre and local authorities, Brisbane City Council and Redlands Shire Council.

Objectives are:

- identifying suitable habitat
- replanting, as necessary, with appropriate host plants
- the eventual reintroduction of four species of butterfly currently threatened by habitat destruction viz., Australian Fritillary, Brown or Chocolate Soldier, Sword grass Brown (morrissi subspecies) and Painted Skipper: All require a similar high water table, Melaleuca woodland/sedgeland type habitat.

Chair: Ms Helen Schwencke

Date: **Monday, 12th January, 1998**

Time: 5pm to 6.30pm

Location: Queensland Museum, lecture theatre. Entry is via Dinosaur Garden, Grey St. Parking is available under the complex

Registration: Participants willing to be actively involved with this project are welcome. Please register beforehand with the Chair:- Ms Helen Schwencke, Butterfly and Other Invertebrates Club Inc, P O Box 5170, West End Q 4101.


Refreshments: A light meal will be served.

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

1998

\$250 Student Award

- Who:** Honours, diploma, or fourth-year undergraduate students in any Queensland tertiary institution.
- What:** A thesis or report on an entomologically related topic examined during 1996 or 1997.
- When:** **Applications close 4 March 1998.**

Send thesis/report and completed entry form to  The Secretary, Entomological Society of Queensland, c/- Entomology Dept., The University of Queensland, Brisbane Q 4072.

This is an award by the Society to encourage entomological research. Entries are judged by a panel of three entomologists appointed by the President. The winner will be announced at the May General Meeting, and is invited to present a summary of their research at the June Notes & Exhibits Meeting of the Society.

Entrants need not be Society members.


If the standard of entries is too low an award may not be given.

Student Award sponsors ★ Arrest-A-Pest Pty. Ltd.

★ Rhone-Poulenc Rural Australia Pty. Ltd.

★ Ciba-Geigy Australia Ltd.

★ CRC for Tropical Pest Management.

Enquires should be directed to the President, David Yeates
 07 3365 2217 or any Office Bearer of the Society.

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND
1998 Student Award
Entry Form

Name:

Title of thesis/report:

Institution:

Degree:

Supervisor:

Date of examiners report/grading:

Address for return of thesis/report:

Signature

Date

Applications close **4 March 1998**.

Send thesis/report and completed entry form to:

☛ The Secretary, Entomological Society of Queensland,
c/- Entomology Dept., The University of Queensland, Brisbane Q 4072.

Guidelines for the Student Award

- Held annually.
- Prize of \$ 250.00
- Open to Honours, Diploma and 4th year Degree students at any Queensland tertiary institution.
- Project or report on an entomologically-related topic.
- Project/report must have been submitted to institution during the two years preceding the year of the Award.
- An unsuccessful candidate may re-enter the following year by invitation from the Council.
- Council will consider bringing a country winner of the Award to Brisbane for the presentation on a year-by-year basis.
- A panel of 3 judges to be selected by the President,
- The main criterion for judging is 'scientific merit', and if 2 or more entries are of equal scientific merit then 'interest to members' is the second criterion.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 1998 OFFICE BEARERS

Members are invited to use the following form to nominate office bearers for the Entomological Society of Queensland Inc. for 1998.

Nominations should reach the Secretary at the address listed on the back cover of the *News Bulletin* by **23 January 1998**.

A list of nominations received will be circulated in the *News Bulletin* Vol 25, Issue 10, and an election will be held at the Annual General Meeting on 09 March 1998. In the absence of a nomination for any particular office the President may receive nominations at the Annual General Meeting.

Positions to be filled are as follows:

1. President
2. Senior Vice-President
3. Honorary Secretary
4. Honorary Treasurer
5. *News Bulletin* Editor
6. Councillors (3 positions)

The Entomological Society of Queensland functions effectively because members play an active part in the Society. All members are encouraged to nominate for positions on the Council of the Society. If you want to know more about Council positions, please contact one of the existing Council members listed on the back of the *News Bulletin*.

OFFICE BEARERS NOMINATION FORM

I nominate (name)

.....

for the position of

.....

on the Council of the Entomological Society of Queensland Inc.

Nominated by

.....

Seconded by

.....

I accept nomination

.....

(Nominee's signature)

SOCIETY SUBSCRIPTION RATES

- ORDINARY:** Persons resident within the municipality of Brisbane - \$23pa (\$20 if paid by AGM).
- COUNTRY:** Persons resident elsewhere - \$21 pa (\$18 if paid by AGM).
- JOINT:** Couples in either of the above categories who share a copy of the *News Bulletin*, but each otherwise have full membership privileges.
Ordinary - \$30 pa (\$27 if paid by AGM).
Country - \$27 pa (\$24 if paid by AGM).
- ASSOCIATE:** Students and others at the discretion of the Society Council - \$15 pa (\$12 if paid by AGM). Associate Membership conveys full membership privileges except the right to vote on the conduct of affairs of the Society, to hold office and to nominate new members.

THE AUSTRALIAN ENTOMOLOGIST SUBSCRIPTION RATES

- AUSTRALIA:** Individuals A\$16 pa Institutions A\$20 pa
- ELSEWHERE:** Individuals A\$20 pa Institutions A\$22 pa

Subscriptions should be sent to the Business Manager, *The Australian Entomologist*.

SUSTAINING ASSOCIATES

Arrest-A-Pest
Ciba-Geigy Australia Pty Ltd
CRC for Tropical Pest Management
Rhone-Poulenc Rural Australia Pty Ltd

OFFICE BEARERS 1997/98

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NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Society will be the **Annual General Meeting** with election of office bearers will be held at 6.30 pm on **Monday 9 March 1998** in Room **323**, Hartley Teakle Building, UQ. Refreshments will be served before the meeting at 6.00 pm in the Tea Room (510).

VISITORS ARE WELCOME