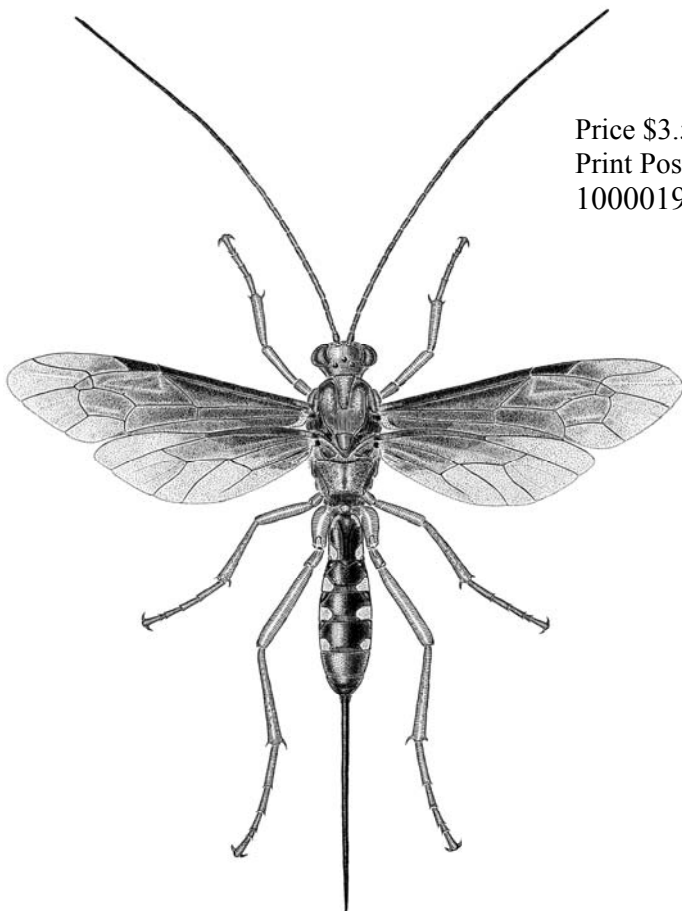


ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC

NEWS BULLETIN

Price \$3.50
Print Post Approved
100001946



Volume 41, Issue 10, February 2014

THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

Internet: www.esq.org.au **Email:** esq@uqconnect.net

Address: PO Box 537, Indooroopilly Qld 4068

President

Dr Simon Lawson
Ph: (07) 3255 4380
Fax: (07) 3844 9716
Email: simon.lawson@daff.qld.gov.au

Senior Vice President

Dr. Bill Palmer
Ph: (07) 3255 4469
Email: bill.palmer@daff.qld.gov.au

Junior Vice President

Geoff Thompson
Ph: (07) 3840 7034
Fax: (07) 3846 1226
Email: geoff.thompson@qm.qld.gov.au

Secretary

Kathy Ebert
Email: k.ebert@uq.edu.au

Treasurer

Dr Brenton Peters
Ph: (07) 3376 4342
Email: petersbc@tpg.com.au

News Bulletin Editor

Dr Geoff Monteith
Ph: (07) 3371 2621
Email: geoff.monteith@bigpond.com

Permit Information Officer

Dr Christine Lambkin
Ph: (07) 3840 7699
Fax: (07) 3846 1226
Email: christine.lambkin@qm.qld.gov.au

Councillors

Dr Federica Turco
Ph: (07) 3840 7690
Fax: (07) 3846 1226
Email: federica.turco@qm.qld.gov.au

Bradley Brown
Ph: (07) 3833 5695
Email: bradley.brown@csiro.au

Penny Mills
Ph: (07) 3365 1864
Email: penelope.mills@uqconnect.edu.au

Honorary Life Members

R.A.I. Drew
D.L. Hancock
M.J. Harslett
R.P. Kleinschmidt
G. B. Monteith
D.P.A. Sands

THE AUSTRALIAN ENTOMOLOGIST

Editor

Dr David Hancock
PO Box 537
Indooroopilly Qld 4068
Ph: (07) 4053 1574
Email: davidhancock50@bigpond.com

Business Manager/Assist. Editor

Dr Geoff Monteith
Ph: (07) 3371 2621
Email: geoff.monteith@bigpond.com

Assist. Editor/Manuscript Coordinator

Dr Federica Turco
Ph: (07) 3840 7690
Email: federica.turco@qm.qld.gov.au

Front Cover Illustration: Ink illustration by William Manley of a female *Lissopimpla excelsa* (Costa, 1864) (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae: Pimplinae), a parasitic wasp (image copyright Qld Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry).

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 (Coleoptera). Its magnificent purple and green colouration makes it one of the most attractive beetle species in Australia. It is restricted to the rainforests of northern Queensland.

ISSN 1037-2989



ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND NEWS BULLETIN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Annual Reports for 2013	
President's report	165
Secretary's report	166
Treasurer's report	168
Independent Auditor's report	168
Australian Entomologist report	170
News Bulletin report	172
Collecting Permit report	172
Nominations for 2014 Office Bearers	173
Notice of Next Meeting	174
Insect Glimpses from Japan — <i>Simon Lawson</i>	175
<i>Mecynotarsus</i> : a genus of odd-looking, but interesting beetles — <i>Alisha Stewart</i>	177
Request for <i>Jalmenus</i> study sites — <i>Sebastian Pohl</i>	179
Entomologists meeting at JCU Cairns — <i>David Rentz</i>	180
Bill Cooper's Insects come to the Queensland Museum	181
Mount Mee BugCatch Announcement	182
Entomology Volunteer Opportunities in Laos	182
Corrigendum in issue 41(7)	182
2014 Student Award	183

The **ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC.**, since its inception in 1923, has striven to promote the development of pure and applied entomological research in Australia, particularly in Queensland. 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 on the second Tuesday of each month (March to June, August to December). Visitors and members are welcome. Membership information can be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, or other office bearers of the Society. Membership is open to anyone interested in Entomology.

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 in the Australian region, including New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the islands of the South Western Pacific. The journal is published in four parts annually.

The issue of this document does **NOT** constitute a formal publication for the purposes of the "International Code of Zoological Nomenclature 4th edition, 1999". Authors alone are responsible for the views expressed.

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR THE YEAR 2013

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

All indications are that the Society remained in pretty good shape in 2013 despite the many challenges facing specialist societies such as ours in the 21st century. Our membership remains at a fairly steady level, with 2013 showing a slight decline on 2012's total. An ongoing challenge for us is of course to attract young members, who are the Society's future. Perhaps a pointer to how to increase public interest in entomology (particularly among the technology-savvy) was given by our Perkins memorial speaker this year, Dr Ken Walker, who inspired us with his enthusiasm for the citizen science of his amazing online vision 'Bowerbird' (<http://bowerbird.org.au>). I know that I would have dearly loved to have such a resource handy as a budding (very) young entomologist in the 1970's! (I was obviously born 40 years too early!) For those of you who haven't yet visited the site I'd strongly encourage you to do so and get involved if you can.

Continuing this theme, the Society's student prize always attracts a very high standard of entries and 2013 was no exception. The evaluation panel had a very difficult task in deciding this year's winner from a field of four candidates, with the award finally going to Andrew Maynard for his B Sc Honours thesis entitled "Understanding bioluminescence synchronisation displayed by larvae of *Arachnocampa tasmaniensis*: A behavioral and phylogenetic approach". Andrew also gave a very interesting talk outlining this research at the Notes and Exhibits meeting in June. We wish him and all the entrants all the best with their future studies and with (hopefully) long careers in entomology.

The society's two mouthpieces, the *News Bulletin* and the *Australian Entomologist* continue to showcase the society to its members and more widely. 2013 was an important year for the Journal as an agreement was signed with RMIT Publishing to make journal articles available electronically (for a price of course!), which I think will be very useful in promoting the Journal nationally and internationally. My thanks to David Hancock (Editor) and Geoff Monteith and Federica Turco for their great and ongoing efforts in producing such a high quality publication. Also many thanks to the *News Bulletin* team for assembling such an informative Bulletin each month, to all the contributors, and to our volunteers for getting each issue into envelopes and out to members each month. Falling printing prices have meant that we are now able to print in full colour, which adds a great deal of value for those members who choose to receive the printed Bulletin.

2013 was also the year we moved across to a new website. As with most web presences, our site will no doubt continue to evolve over time and I encourage feedback from members as to how we can further improve it. Many thanks to Chris Moseneder for all his work on the new site and to Kathy Ebert who took on the role of webmaster at short notice and who has already made some tweaks following Council feedback.

Our monthly meetings at the ESP continued to be well attended, and I personally thank all those who presented. A wide range of topics were represented, which I hope didn't reflect too much on my own interests in the interaction between trees and insects! Michael Ramsden opened the year with an entertaining talk on the arrival in Queensland of the *Sirex* woodwasp and 2013 ended with Dr Helen Wallace talking about promiscuity in our native flora and their interactions with insects. In between

we were privileged to have Ken Walker deliver the Perkins Memorial Lecture (referred to above) and Prof Mandyam Srinivisan talk about the fascinating ways that insects (bees in particular) navigate their way through their world with limited computing power, and the knowledge of which looks likely to have great practical applications, not the least in providing smoother aircraft landings! Again, many thanks to ALL of our speakers for giving their time.

Our two Notes and Exhibits meetings this year were well attended, with a great range of speakers and exhibits. I would like to especially thank Matt Purcell and Bradley Brown for organising the barbecues that followed the Perkins Memorial lecture and December meetings.

A very important part of our outreach into the community are our BugCatch events and our role in coordinating insect collection permits in Queensland. A very successful BugCatch was held in October at Franke Scrub, near Toowoomba and my thanks go to Trish Gardiner (Friends of Franke Scrub), Chris Lambkin and Kathy Ebert for the running of this event. Chris Lambkin has for a number of years taken on the unenviable task of administering the collection permit program for the society with great panache and dedication, so many thanks Chris!

Finally, I thank all our Council members who have helped make 2013 a successful year for the Society and made my job as President very easy and enjoyable. Particular thanks go to our hard working Secretary (Kathy Ebert) and Treasurer (Brenton Peters) who do the real 'grunt' work of the Society. As an aside, and from my experience this year, I suspect that the job of President is one of those that one only really starts to get the hang of just when you are about to leave it! To quote a famous Australian (not an entomologist as far as I know) "Such is life"!

It has been a great honour and privilege to have served in 2013 as President of what is a wonderful Society with a proud heritage.

I wish the new President and Council all the best for 2014.

Simon Lawson
President

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

Attendance at Council Meetings: There were nine council meetings during 2013 with attendance as follows.

President:	
Dr Simon Lawson	8
Senior Vice President:	
Dr Bill Palmer	7
Junior Vice President:	
Geoff Thompson	9
Secretary:	
Kathy Ebert	7
Treasurer:	
Dr Brenton Peters	8
Bulletin Editor (Mar-Sept):	
Chris Moeseneder	4
Bulletin Editor (Oct-Feb)	
and Business Manager:	
Dr Geoff Monteith	8
Councillors:	
Bradley Brown	6
Dr Federica Turco	5
Penny Mills	8
Retiring Bulletin Editor:	
Justin Bartlett	1
Retiring Secretary:	
Dr Judy King	1

Membership

We received 20 new membership applications since January. Of these, 15 were General, 1 Joint, 4 Student. Three of these are currently pending approval at the January council meeting.

Student Award

There were 3 entries submitted for the Student Award this year. All were excellent. The judging panel selected Andrew Maynard from the University of Queensland for his thesis entitled “Understanding bioluminescence synchronisation displayed by larvae of *Arachnoscampa tasmaniensis*: A behavioural and phylogenetic approach”.

General Meetings

General meetings were held at the Eco-sciences Precinct in Dutton Park. Guest speakers and the ‘Notes and Exhibits’ meetings provided a varied and interesting programme during the year. Speakers and titles are listed below:

March — Geoff Thompson, Presidential Address: “From Woodcuts to Cutting Edge - looking back and looking forward at insect imaging”.

April — Michael Ramsden: *Sirex* wood wasps in Queensland”.

May — Dr Mike Furlong: “Plant responses to herbivory: complex interactions between parasitoids, predators and prey”.

June — **Student Award.** Andrew Maynard: “Understanding bioluminescence synchronization displayed by larvae of *Arachnoscampa tasmaniensis*: a behavioural and phylogenetic approach”. **Notes and Exhibits.** Dr Geoff Monteith: “A native jewel beetle killing planted *Metrosideros* in Brisbane” & “Last summer’s Cooloolo monster catch”. Dr Federica Turco: “Another on bites (in) the dust! - a short account on a beetle larva recently found at Gurgeena Plateau”. Dr Simon Lawson: “BiCEP: A global alliance for the biological control of eucalypt pests”. Richard Piper: “A new poster on Australian pest fruit flies”.

August — Dr Doland Nichols: “Bell Miner associated dieback of eucalypt forests”.

September — Dr Ken Walker: “Advancing Australian Biosecurity and Biodiversity through the web”.

October — Professor Mandyam Srinivasan: “More than a honey machine: vision and navigation in honeybees and application to robotics”.

November — Professor Helen Wallace: “Promiscuous plants and strange bee behaviour; reproduction in Australian plants”.

December — **Notes and Exhibits.** Dr Christine Lambkin: “Mass emergence of a moth lacewing”. Dr Geoff Monteith: “Feeding and mating in an unusual shield bug”. Dr Dave Walter: “Moths of Canada”. Giorgio Venturieri (visiting Brazilian scholar): “Domesticating native stingless bees”. Geoff Thompson: “Correcting aberration in digital photographs”.

General Meeting attendances

On average, attendance was slightly less than last year. (Average member attendance down from 26 to 23. Average visitor attendance dropped from 6 to 5).

Attendance details are as follows:

	Members	Visitors
March AGM	29	6
April	21	2
May	18	3
June	25	1
August	16	2
September	29	10
October	26	13
November	23	6
December	19	4

Other Activities

A successful BugCatch in October was held at Franke Scrub, 15 km from Toowoomba, organised in conjunction with Trish Gardiner (Friends of Franke Scrub, Friends of Peacehaven Botanic Park), Chris Lambkin (Queensland Museum (QM)), and Kathy Ebert (School of Biological Sciences, University of Queensland (UQ)), as part of a field trip for the UQ Insect Science and Terrestrial Invertebrate university courses, as well as a QM Backyard Explorer Community Event.

Acknowledgments

Thank you to Penny Mills for taking minutes during my absence from the October meeting. Thank you to all council members for their patience and guidance this year, helping me with my new role as secretary.

Kathy Ebert
Honorary Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

During 2013 the society saw a small membership nett decrease of approximately 2.8% to 278 paying members. The cost of sales was slightly higher in 2013 than the previous year of 2012 (due to a quality colour News Bulletin print) and the trading profit of \$268.52 was also down from last year's \$3,943.65. In June a term deposit matured and \$10,975.88 was reinvested to help generate a higher interest rate for the society's funds. Subscription renewals for 2014 were recently sent out in November by email or the postal service. A small number of members are still yet to pay their 2013 subscriptions. I thank members who promptly pay their subscriptions at the beginning of the year. If any members

would like to receive their Bulletin by email rather than the postal service please contact me to arrange this. Please notify me of change of postal or email address.

Brenton Peters,
Honorary Treasurer

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of the Entomological Society of Queensland.

Scope

I have audited the accounts of The Members of the Entomological Society of Queensland, being the Balance Sheet of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2013. The committee of the society is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the accounts and the information they contain and have determined that the accounting policies used are appropriate to meet the needs of members. I have conducted an independent audit of these accounts in order to express an opinion to the members of the society on its presentation and preparation. No opinion is expressed as to whether the basis of accounting used is appropriate to the needs of members.

Auditor opinion

Subject to the effects of the above the financial reports present fairly the activities of the Society for the year ended 31st December 2013.

Rebecca Keys
Independent and Honorary Accountant
12 February 2014

Entomological Society of Queensland Inc.
Trading Account and Income and Expenditure Statement
for the year ended 31st December 2013

Trading Income

Subscriptions 2013	6,480.00
Subscriptions in Arrears 2012	366.00
Total Trading Income	6,846.00

Cost of Sales

Add:

Bulletin Printing 2013	4,083.18
Bulletin Postage 2013	1,242.45
Cost of Sales	5,325.63

Gross Trading Profit

1,520.37

Income

Trading Profit	1,520.37
Interest Received	426.03
Payment from AES - auditor expense	150.00
Total Income	2,096.40

Expenses

Merchant Fees	455.20
Audit	300.00
Student prize	500.00
Stationery	134.88
Web Page Registration and Hosting	95.40
Dr Walker Airfares	257.70
Petty Cash Float	50.00
Sundry	34.70
	1,827.88

**Profit/(Loss) from Ordinary Activities
before income tax**

268.52

Entomological Society of Queensland Inc.
Statement of Financial Position as at 31st December 2013

Current Assets**Cash Assets**

Cash at Bank - Cheque Account	8,909.62
Cash at Bank - Term deposit	10,975.88
Cash on Hand	6.57
Total	19,892.07
Receivables	0.00
Total Assets	19,892.07

Current Liabilities**Payables**

Subscriptions Paid in Advance	2,706.00
-------------------------------	----------

Total Liabilities

2,706.00

Net Assets

17,186.07

Equity

Retained profits/(accumulated losses)	17,186.07
---------------------------------------	-----------

Total Equity	17,186.07
--------------	-----------

**AUSTRALIAN ENTOMOLOGIST
JOURNAL REPORT**

Four parts of Volume 40 were published during the year, totalling 248 pages and including 27 papers plus 3 pages of miscellaneous notes, a book notice and corrigenda. Thirty-one manuscripts were submitted during the year, with two subsequently withdrawn and one from last year rejected. Twelve papers are on hand for 2014.

Publication committee remained composed of David Hancock as Editor, Geoff Monteith as Business Manager, Federica Turco and Geoff Monteith as Assistant Editors and Federica Turco as Manuscript Coordinator.

Typesetting and preparation of the Journal for the Printers (Bayfield Printing) continues to be done in-house, with David Hancock preparing the general lay-out of each issue and Federica Turco dealing with high-resolution imaging, including preparation of figure plates when needed. Page charges remained at \$10 per page for up to 20 pages and \$20 per page for those in excess of 20, including unlimited use of colour. Three of the four issues (Part 1, 3 and 4) were produced as perfect-bound booklets. Overseas postage costs increased substantially during the year, however we still managed to make a small profit of \$670 (see Financial Statement). \$6000 was transferred from our working account to a third MecuBank fixed term deposit and these deposits now yield a useful return of close to \$1000 per year.

ANNUAL REPORT 2013
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR *THE AUSTRALIAN ENTOMOLOGIST* –
JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2013

ASSETS	\$	LIABILITIES	\$
CBA chq A/c 00908915			
Closing balance	2905.71	Subs in advance (2014-15)	3603.15
		Cheques not presented	337.95
Bank MECU term accts			
Closing balance: 307023174	12038.46		
307023175	7550.67		
138340573	6314.99		
Subscriptions owing 2013	363.00		
Stationery (printed envelopes)	100.00		
Unsold past issues <i>Aust. Entomol.</i>			
2268 @ \$0.75 ea *	1734.75		
TOTAL	<u>\$31,007.58</u>	TOTAL	<u>\$3,941.10</u>

EXCESS ASSETS OVER LIABILITIES: **\$27,066.48**

INCOME	\$	EXPENDITURE	\$
Subscriptions	8299.50	Printing costs, Vol 40(1-4)	7145.30
Page charges	2280.00	Postage	2216.98
Interest (CBA 00908915)	0.43	Stationery	181.71
Interest (MECU 307023174)	301.99	Monthly merchant card fee	299.55
Interest (MECU 307023175)	325.15	Sub transfer to ESQ	30.00
Interest (MECU 138340573)	314.99	Auditor's honorarium	150.00
		Graphic layout costs	750.00
Subscription to ESQ	30.00	Dishonoured payments	108.75
TOTAL	<u>11,552.06</u>	TOTAL	<u>10,882.29</u>

NET TRADING **PROFIT**/LOSS: **\$669.77**

2013 SUBSCRIPTIONS at Dec 31:

AUSTRALIAN SUBSCRIPTIONS	205 (30 institutional, 3 complimentary)
OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTIONS	47 (38 institutional, 3 complimentary)
TOTAL SUBSCRIBERS	252

I certify this is a true and accurate financial statement of the *Australian Entomologist* for the period 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2013.

Rebecca Keys
Independent and Honorary Accountant
12 February, 2014

There are currently 252 subscribers, reflecting a slight but continuing decline from the 265 subscribers at the end of 2012. During the year we finalised an agreement with electronic distributors RMIT Publishing in Melbourne whereby they will distribute and make available through search engines electronic versions of our published papers as part of their INFORMIT service. We will receive an annual royalty payment based on the total of their sales of our material. They will not distribute whole subscriptions and we have offered our subscribers an electronic subscription option for 2014 subscriptions. However only two subscribers have opted for the digital version and this supports our intention that the print version will remain the major focus of publication.

We again thank our subscribers, authors, referees and printers for their contributions to the Journal, all of which help ensure its continuing success.

**D.L.Hancock,
F. Turco and
G.B.Monteith**

Journal Publication Committee

NEWS BULLETIN REPORT

Queensland has, and always has had, the largest number of entomologists of any state in Australia. The monthly News Bulletin of the Entomological Society of Queensland plays an important role in this dispersed community of insect scientists and enthusiasts, bringing regular news of insects, people, projects, books, meetings, conferences and other happenings. For the majority of members, who do not live in Brisbane and do not have the opportunity to attend monthly meetings of the Society, the News Bulletin is the only thing they receive for their dues and their only contact with the Society. Its importance to the Society is paramount.

During 2013 ten issues were produced totalling 180 pages. We are very grateful to our printers, Rocklea Printing, for their efficient turnaround and low prices. This has enabled us to go into full colour in our hardcopy version and this has received a good response from the membership. It is hoped to maintain full colour and members are urged to submit material to take advantage of this.

The Bulletin Committee saw some changes during the year. Chris Moeseneder relinquished the editorship in mid year and Geoff Monteith was appointed by Council to carry the role for the remainder of the year. Justin Bartlett undertook the layout of final copy for the second half and has carried the brunt of envelope stuffing at ESP each month. Penny Mills has carried the flag at the University and provided conference reports as well as helping with the mailouts.

We urge members to use the News Bulletin to communicate ideas, images and information to their fellow members around the State.

Geoff Monteith
News Bulletin Editor

COLLECTING PERMIT REPORT

An endorsed ESQ collecting permit (WITK10612112 and TWB/03B/2012) with an extended list of protected areas (180 National Parks, State Forests, and Forest Reserves as of November 2013) and new conditions was sent to 90 members in November 2013. They were requested to submit their annual reports of locality data for specimens collected and identified by mid December 2013. Most submitted null returns but 34 reported on specimens collected, indicating that over a third of those endorsed are actively collecting on the permit.

The 2013 amalgamated annual Wildlife Data Return and Report to QPWS covers over 11,000 invertebrate specimens including Beetles (605), Bugs (107), Cockroaches, Flies (398), Lacewings, Lepidoptera (1008), Mecoptera, Odonata, Orthoptera, Thrips (251), Wasps and Ants (1139), Spiders (1259), Mites, Millipedes, Landsnails (6120 est), and an Onychophoran.

As of mid January 2014 when our Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), Department of Resource Management (DERM) Scientific Purpose Permit report was due, 91 members were endorsed on the ESQ collecting permits.

Five members have described new species in 2013 from specimens collected on the permit and their papers were also submitted to DERM:

BAEHR, B.C., HARVEY, M.S., SMITH, H.M. & OTT, R. 2013. The goblin spider genus *Opopaea* in Australia and the Pacific Islands (Araneae: Oonopidae). *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum – Nature* 58: 107–338.

EWART, A. & POPPLE, L.W. 2013. Three new cicada species of the genus *Gudanga* Distant (Insecta: Cicadidae: Cicadettinae: Cicadettini) from Queensland; comparative morphology, songs, behaviour and distributions. *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum – Nature* 56(2): 355–406.

EWART, A. & POPPLE, L.W. 2013. New species of *Drymopsalta* Heath Cicadas (Cicadidae: Cicadettinae: Cicadettini) from Queensland and Northern Territory, Australia, with overview of genus. *Zootaxa* 3620 (1): 001–042

LAMBKIN, C. L. & TURCO, F. 2013. *Collessiana* (Diptera: Therevidae: Agapophytinae: *Taenogera* genus-group), a new genus from eastern Australia, with a key to the Australian genera of Therevidae. *Zootaxa* 3680, 96–117.

TURCO, F., ŚLIPIŃSKI, A. & LAMBKIN, C. L. 2013. *Enhypnon* Carter: a taxonomic revision of an endemic Australian genus of ground-dwelling beetles (Coleoptera: Zopheridae) *Zootaxa* 3681, 371–394.

Christine Lambkin
ESQ Permit Officer

NOMINATIONS FOR 2014 OFFICE BEARERS

The following nominations were received by the Honorary Secretary before closing date of January 28th:

Senior Vice President: *Dr Federica Turco. Nominated by:* Geoff Monteith. *Seconded by:* Geoff Thompson.

Honorary Secretary: *Kathy Ebert. Nominated by:* Brenton Peters. *Seconded by:* Bill Palmer.

Honorary Treasurer *Dr Brenton Peters. Nominated by:* Kathy Ebert. *Seconded by:* Bill Palmer.

News Bulletin Editor: *Dr David Walter. Nominated by:* Bill Palmer. *Seconded by:* Helen Nahrung.

Councillor: *Dr Nancy Schellhorn. Nominated by:* Bill Palmer. *Seconded by:* Helen Nahrung.

Councillor: *Bradley Brown. Nominated by:* Matthew Purcell. *Seconded by:* Gio Fichera.

Councillor: *Penelope Mills. Nominated by:* Lyn Cook. *Seconded by:* Tom Semple.

Business Manager, Australian Entomologist: *Dr Geoff Monteith. Nominated by:* Federica Turco. *Seconded by:* Geoff Thompson.

As only one nomination has been received for each position, a ballot will not be required at the AGM. The positions of President and Junior Vice President are automatically filled by the previous year's

Senior Vice President (Dr Bill Palmer) and President (Simon Lawson) respectively.

Kathy Ebert
Honorary Secretary

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 11th March 2014, 1.00 pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS



BY

Dr Simon Lawson

Forest Health, Qld Department of
Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, Brisbane

Australians abroad: eucalypts and their insects

A quintessential part of the Australian landscape and culture, eucalypts have been grown overseas for more than 150 years. There they have many uses, from ornamental and street trees to environmental landscape plantings or as extensive industrial plantations. Australia's eucalypt insects, while not as well-known to Australians as the trees themselves, are also iconic and unique. Eucalypts and their insects have evolved together in Australia over millions of years, but it is only comparatively recently that they have re-united in new environments overseas. Here I look at the history of eucalypts overseas, the insects that have moved around the world with them, and the efforts to manage them.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER. Dr Simon Lawson is a graduate of University of Adelaide's Waite Institute and worked in forest entomology for a time at "the Waite" before leaving to spend several years in Japan during which time he gained a PhD from University of Tokyo on natural enemies of the spruce bark beetle. He is currently Team Leader for Forest Health in the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. His work focuses on developing management methods for insect pests in production forests, with a strong interest also in forest biosecurity.

Seminar Room
Ground Floor, Ecosciences Precinct
Boggo Road, DUTTON PARK
More venue details available at
<http://www.esq.org.au/events.html>

WANT TO JOIN THE SOCIETY ?

Visit our website at <http://www.esq.org.au/> where you will find nomination forms and full details of fees and addresses. There are also forms for existing members to use to pay their subscriptions. Coming meetings and excursions are listed. Procedures for publishing in our journal, *Australian Entomologist*, are explained with a full Guide to Authors plus forms for taking out a subscription to the journal.



INSECT GLIMPSES FROM JAPAN: THE PERFECT INSECT XMAS TREE....AND OUR EMBLEM FOR SALE

By Simon Lawson
DAFF, Brisbane

While in Okinawa, Japan, over the Christmas break we visited the Ryugujo Butterfly Garden (<http://www.motobu-ka.com.e.dw.hp.transer.com/page/315.html>), which was very nice but with only a few species active at the time, given that it was the middle of winter (think Brisbane weather in late June). One species, *Idea leuconoe* (Nymphalidae) the rice paper butterfly, was very common and attractive (Fig 1). Pupae of this species are a metallic golden colour, and hundreds of these had been very artistically arranged on a Christmas tree (Fig 2) as decorations - perfect for the entomological inclined seasonal celebrations! I hate to think how long it took to arrange these and presumably keep replacing them on the tree as the butterflies emerged!

When perusing a pet shop in Tokyo that specialised in insects (mostly rhinoceros and stag beetles), spiders, solifuges, frogs, salamanders, turtles, lizards, snakes, and some mammals (including sugar gliders!), I spotted live specimens of the ESQ emblem (the King Stag Beetle, *Phalacrognathus muelleri*, known in Japan as the Rainbow Stag Beetle) on sale (Figs 3-5).

The beetles shown in the images were retailing for between ¥4,000 to ¥5,000 per pair (\$45 - \$55), and, according to the label on the container, appear to have been Queensland-sourced. The shop sold a huge range of prepared diets for rhinoceros and stag beetles, including two different diets for *P. muelleri* that would apparently produce 'red' or 'green' morphs. Among others, live Hercules beetles (*Dynastes hercules*) from South America were also on sale at about twice the price of our Society's emblem.

Interesting as the range of beetles for sale was to an entomologist, the shop was an absolute nightmare from biosecurity, quarantine and animal cruelty perspectives. It is quite astonishing that importation of these exotics is freely allowed in Japan without any consideration given to the potential ecological and/or economic consequences. The only saving grace is that most of the species on sale here were tropical and so if they were to escape (a python was attempting an escape from its cage whilst we were in the shop!) or get dumped into the local environment they would be unlikely to Survive a Tokyo winter. However,

unintended consequences have already been reported from the sale of exotic stag beetles as pets in Japan, with introgression of genes from exotics (*Dorcus* spp.) into closely related native species and transferal of associated exotic mites from their

exotic host to native hosts having already been observed. The most disturbing animal for sale in the shop, though, was a poor single Meerkat, looking very distressed, and with a miserably lonesome life to look forward to (Meerkats being highly social).



Fig. 1. The rice-paper butterfly, *Idea leuconoe*, at a Poinsettia feeding station. **Fig 2.** Christmas tree in an Okinawa store decorated with emerging pupae of *Idea leuconoe*. Inset shows detail of a living pupal pompom! **Figs 3-5.** *Phalacrognathus muelleri* in Tokyo petshop. **3.** A very large male on display. **2.** Two-packs of pupae – for a price! Even expected emergence months of adults are marked. “Queensland” is mentioned as origin, presumably of the original breeding stock. **3.** Specialised diets for ‘red’ or ‘green’ morphs of our emblem.



MECYNOTARSUS: A GENUS OF ODD-LOOKING, BUT INTERESTING BEETLES

Dr Alisha Steward

Queensland Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts (DSITIA)

Drought can mean tough times for wildlife, cattle, farmers and communities out in western Queensland. But for a bunch of odd-looking beetles, times couldn't be better! Dried-up riverbeds out there have been found to be teeming with invertebrate life (Steward *et al.* 2011, Steward *et al.* 2012), including tiny beetles with kooky horns stemming from their thorax and extending out over their heads (Fig. 1 and 2). These beetles belong to my favourite genus, *Mecynotarsus*, from the subfamily Notoxinae (family Anthicidae). Notoxinae beetles differ from all other anthicids by the presence of their striking, unusual horn. All Australian Notoxinae belong to the single genus *Mecynotarsus*.

It was their funky pronotal horn that first got me interested in *Mecynotarsus*. Researchers had been uncertain about the function of the horn, but Japanese scientists Hashimoto and Hayashi (2012) recently solved the puzzle – the beetle's shovel-like horn is used for digging through sand! The beetles may dig to forage, to escape from hot sandy surfaces during the heat of the day, or to avoid predators. An interesting video showing the beetle's shovelling action can be found here (scroll down to the Supporting Information section): <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1479-8298.2012.00517.x/full>. Basically the beetle uses the horn to force a passage through the sand grains while the protected head is flexed rapidly to move grains aside to enlarge the space behind the horn.

The Australian species of *Mecynotarsus* have recently been revised by Kejval (2013), with a total 42 species now recognised in Australia – 31 of them being

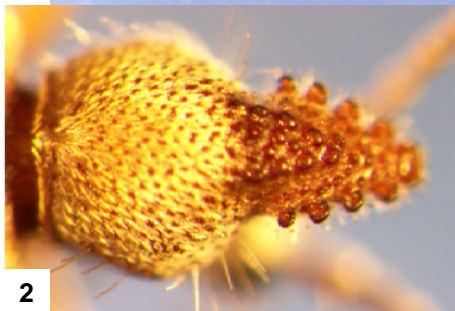
newly-described. Species of *Mecynotarsus* can be found all over Australia, and they are morphologically diverse – they come in a range of colours and horn shapes, and vary in the setation and scale patterns on their elytra. Kejval's revision includes fabulously-detailed colour photographs showcasing the bodies of the beetles, their heads, horns, legs and elytra.

Other members of the genus have been found inhabiting coastal dunes and sandy deserts, but my colleagues and I from the Water Planning Ecology group in DSITIA have found them to be common inhabitants of dry, sandy riverbeds during our routine monitoring and assessment work around the state. During recent field work, we have found them in dry riverbeds of the Bulloo, Warrego, Paroo and Nebine catchments. I also found them in dry riverbeds during my PhD work in the Mitchell, Flinders, and Brisbane River catchments. We currently collect them with pitfall traps (Fig. 3). We hope to collect more information on these interesting beetles in the future.

Despite these beetles being beautifully-patterned, interesting, and common, the "biology of the Australian *Mecynotarsus* is essentially unknown" (Kejval, 2013). No doubt, any work on the biology and ecology of these beetles in Australia will be embraced by anthicid-lovers the world over! The beetles may even be of importance to researchers who work on intermittent rivers. Where do the beetles go when rivers start to flow again? Are the beetles important components of dry riverbed foodwebs? With such little known about these beetles, the research questions are endless...



1



2



3

For more information please contact Alisha Steward – alisha.steward@qld.gov.au

References

HASHIMOTO, K. & HAYASHI, F. 2012. Structure and function of the large pronotal horn of the sand-living anthicid beetle *Mecynotarsus tenuipes*. *Entomological Science* 15: 274–279.

KEJVAL, Z. 2013. Taxonomic revision of the Australian Notoxinae (Coleoptera: Anthicidae). *Acta Entomologica Musei Nationalis Pragae* 53 (supplementum): 1–98.

STEWARD, A.L., VON SCHILLER, D., TOCKNER, K., MARSHALL, J.C. & BUNN, S.E. 2012. When the river runs dry: human and ecological values of dry riverbeds. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* 10: 202–209.

STEWARD, A.L., MARSHALL, J.C., SHELDON, F., HARCH, B., CHOY, S., BUNN, S.E. & TOCKNER, K. 2011. Terrestrial invertebrates of dry river beds are not simply subsets of riparian assemblages. *Aquatic Sciences* 73: 551–566.

Fig. 1 A *Mecynotarsus* specimen collected from a dry riverbed in the Nebine catchment, western Queensland. **Fig. 2** Close up dorsal view of a *Mecynotarsus* horn. **Fig. 3** Alisha setting a pitfall trap in a dry, sandy riverbed in northern Queensland.



REQUEST FOR *JALMENUS* STUDY SITES

Sebastian Pohl
University of Melbourne
sebastian.pohl@unimelb.edu.au

After completing my PhD on North American slave-making ants last year at Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich I have recently started a postdoctoral position at the University of Melbourne in Prof. Mark Elgar's evolutionary ecology group. We will investigate the chemical communication between *Jalmenus* butterflies and their *Iridomyrmex* attendant ants (Fig 1). We want to sample various populations across the range of our focal species, *Jalmenus evagoras* (Fig 2), as well as populations of other *Jalmenus* species, and we plan to chemically analyze the cuticular hydrocarbon profiles of both partners in this mutualistic relationship, as well as the caterpillars' secretions.

Part of my work will be done at Harvard University in collaboration with Prof. Naomi Pierce, and Dr. Rod Eastwood from the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard suggested that I contact the Society with regard to the expertise of your members. I would like to ask members working in this field if they would be so kind as to provide me with some information about potential sites (preferably with the corresponding GPS data) where we might find *J. evagoras* or populations of other species within the genus *Jalmenus*. I can be contacted at the email above and am happy to answer any queries about our plans.



Fig 1. *Iridomyrmex* ants attending the larvae of *Jalmenus evagoras* feeding on *Acacia* sp.
Fig 2. Adult of *Jalmenus evagoras* (Lycaenidae).



ENTOMOLOGISTS MEETING AT JCU CAIRNS CAMPUS

By David Rentz, Kuranda

With the appointment of two entomologists to the staff of James Cook University, Smithfield Campus (Cairns), some of us thought it would be a good time to get all the local entomologists together to meet the new staff members: Dr Lori Lach, ARC DECRA Research Fellow, Centre for Tropical Environmental and Sustainability Science and Centre for Tropical Biology and Climate Change School of Marine and Tropical Biology and Tobin Northfield Lecturer, School of Marine and Tropical Biology. This was an opportunity to let them become aware of the abundance of entomological expertise that exists so close to the campus.

The confab was held on Saturday 8 February. As luck would have it, we were in the midst of a rainy period and that prevented a few folks from attending. In the end we had over 30 attendees. A morning of short talks by Kylie Anderson, Tom Burkot, Lori Lach, Tobin Northfield, David Rentz, Simon Robson, Jamie Seymour and Carl Wardhaugh provided everyone with an idea of some of the research that was being carried out on both campuses and locally by those in retirement. The university put on a splendid morning tea and lunch. Everyone got to meet the two new staff members plus several others who came from as far away as the Townsville Campus.



North Queensland entomologists gathering at JCU Cairns campus on February 8th (Photo: Gary Wilson)

BILL COOPER'S INSECTS COME TO THE QUEENSLAND MUSEUM

William T Cooper is, in the words of David Attenborough, “undoubtedly the best scientific bird painter in the world today”. Bill has lived for many years, with his botanist wife Wendy, in a beautiful house/studio tucked into the rainforest near Topaz on the Atherton Tableland. Indeed it was there that Attenborough filmed the unforgettable sequence where a wild Victoria Riflebird soared down from the canopy to land on David’s hand as he spoke to camera while Bill made lightning sketches of its posture (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R9jZckFqUwU>). Bill’s many illustrated books of birds of the world are classics of their kind and are famous for the attention to detail and accuracy of background, sometimes including insects from the bird’s habitat.

Partly out of natural curiosity of the inhabitants of his rainforest, and partly to form a stock of reference specimens for possible inclusion in the background of his

paintings, Bill has built up a cabinet of beautifully prepared insect specimens over the years. They include a good representation of the big showy species such as beetles, phasmids, orthoptera and moths, many of them being cleaned and stuffed, a hang-over from Bill’s early training as a taxidermist. Many of them are accompanied by notes on colour, often with dabs of reference watercolour on slips of paper. Bill has recently donated this collection to the Queensland Museum and QM’s Entomology Collection Manager, Susan Wright, helped by Geoff Monteith, packed the collection up on Feb 2. They worked in his studio where Bill was painting a canvas of Eclectus Parrots for inclusion in a coming exhibition in Newcastle which will open at the time of a launch at the National Library in Canberra of a biography of his life and work written by author/ornithologist Penny Olsen (<http://bookshop.nla.gov.au/book/any-eye-for-nature-the-life-and-art-of-william-t-cooper.do#>).



Caption: Bill Cooper, aproned-up for painting, with Geoff Monteith and Susan Wright as they packed his insect collection for transfer to the Queensland Museum.

MOUNT MEE BUGCATCH MARCH 16, 2014

A BugCatch Event is being planned for Sunday, the 16th of March. It will be held at Mt Mee QPWS barracks at Sellin Rd and Neurum Creek Rd from 10AM. This is about an hour's drive from Brisbane. There will be a film crew from 360degree Films attending to film part of a documentary on the world of flies in Australia. Light trapping will be held in the evening. More information will become available soon. Contact Kathy Ebert (k.ebert@uq.edu.au) if you are interested in coming and full details will be sent.

ENTOMOLOGY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN LAOS

In the last News Bulletin we gave advance notice of two AusAid volunteer positions that are coming available for entomologists to work in rural areas of the SE Asian country of Laos. More information is now available.

The first position is for a person up to 30 years of age to work for 12 months in the remote area of Pakse. The position will be aimed at giving training to local people in recognition of pest and beneficial insects of agricultural and veterinary significance. The volunteer will be expected to establish a reference collection for the area and to liaise with external institutions regarding identifications. The work will be under the auspices of the Crawford Foundation and will be in conjunction with Professor Lester Burgess who is on site. Australian Dr Kylie Ireland (k.b.ireland@gmail.com) is currently there as a volunteer and is happy to answer queries. Full details are available at: <http://assignments.austraining.com.au/AyadAssignmentDetail.aspx?AssCode=13028>

The second position is an Australian Volunteers in International Development (AVID) posting and is for six months in Savannakhet which is the second largest city in Laos. There are no age limits and spousal support may be available. The duties are similar to the other position. Full details are available at: <http://volunteering.austraining.com.au/assignment?AyaCode=AV0214LA01P>



CORRIGENDUM IN ISSUE 41[7]

In the ISSIS Conference article on pp. 111-113, there was a misidentification of the organism which induced the gall in Figure 4 (below). The legend should read: "Fig.4. Massive aphid gall found near the fort of Asenovgrad." Also, in the text, "massive psyllid galls" should be replaced with "massive aphid galls". The aphids which induce the galls belong to subfamily Fordinae.



Entomological Society of Queensland 2014

\$500 Student Award

This is an award by the Society to encourage entomological research. Entries are judged by a panel of three entomologists appointed by the president of the Society. The winner will be announced at the May 13 General Meeting and is then invited to present a summary of their research at the June 10 Notes and Exhibits meeting of the Society.

Honours, Diploma and 4th year Degree students who received their qualification from any Queensland tertiary education institution in 2013 or 2014 may submit their entomology-based thesis or report for consideration.

Entrants need not be Society members.

These reports can be directed to the Society's senior Vice-president at the address listed on the entry form. However, please note that a hard copy of your thesis/report does not need to be submitted, and the submission of a PDF version is encouraged. This should be emailed together with a signed copy of the completed entry form to Bill Palmer at bill.palmer@daff.qld.gov.au

Closing date for submissions is Friday 11th April 2014

**See the December News Bulletin
or visit <http://www.esq.org.au/awards.html>
for details on how to enter**

DIARY DATES 2014

Nine general meetings held per year on the 2nd Tuesday of the respective month

MAR—Tuesday 11th	Dr Simon Lawson	AGM and Presidential Address “Australians abroad: eucalypts and their insects”
APR—Tuesday 8th		
MAY—Tuesday 13th		
JUN—Tuesday 10th	Student Award Presentation / Notes and Exhibits	
AUG—Tuesday 12th		
SEP—Tuesday 9th		
OCT—Tuesday 14th		
NOV—Tuesday 11th		
DEC—Tuesday 9th	Notes & Exhibits and Xmas BBQ	

SOCIETY SUBSCRIPTION RATES

GENERAL:	Person who has full membership privileges	\$30pa
JOINT:	Residents in the same household who share a copy of the <i>News Bulletin</i> , but each otherwise have full membership privileges.	\$36pa
STUDENT:	Students and others at the discretion of the Society Council	\$18pa

Student membership conveys full membership privileges at a reduced rate.

THE AUSTRALIAN ENTOMOLOGIST SUBSCRIPTION RATES

AUSTRALIA:	Individuals	AU\$33pa
	Institutions	AU\$37pa
ASIA/PACIFIC:	Individuals	AU\$40pa
	Institutions	AU\$45pa
ELSEWHERE:	Individuals	AU\$45pa
	Institutions	AU\$50pa

Subscriptions should be sent to the Business Manager,
The Australian Entomologist PO Box 537, Indooroopilly QLD 4068.



THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND



NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 11th March 2014, 1.00 pm

~

Annual General Meeting

Business will include:

Presentation of Annual Reports for the year 2013

Election of Officers for 2014

Presidential Address by retiring President Dr Simon Lawson

Australians abroad: eucalypts and their insects

~

Seminar Room 1

Ground Floor, Ecosciences Precinct

Boggo Road, DUTTON PARK

More venue details available at

<http://www.esq.org.au/events.html>

ALL WELCOME

NEXT NEWS BULLETIN

Volume 41, Issue 10 (February 2014)

CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

DEADLINE - Tuesday 19th March, 2014

Send your news/stories/notices to

geoff.monteith@bigpond.com