



April
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Issue
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CIRCULAR OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES Inc

Next Meeting of the Entomological Society of NSW Inc

Where: Meeting Room 2, Ermington Community Centre, River Road, Ermington

When: 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 2 May 2007

54th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 54th AGM was held at the Ermington Community Centre on the 7 March, 2007

Elections

Elections were held however we failed to find somebody willing to nominate for the position of President, with Martin standing down after having put in a great effort over the last 3 years. If any member has a vision for the Society and would like to step into the role now is the time to step up. All other key positions are filled and functioning. however there are a still couple of Councilor positions available for anybody who simply wants to learn how the Council operates and to help where they see an opportunity.

President	- POSITION NOT FILLED
Vice-President	- Barbara May
Hon. Secretary	- Mary-Ann Terras
Treasurer	- Ted Taylor
Hon. Business Manager	- Gith Strid-Nwulaekwe
Hon. Public Officer	- Mary-Ann Terras
Hon. Editor	- Garry Levot
Hon. Circular Editor	- Graeme Smith
Councilors	- Marc Greco - Robin Parsons

UNPAID
POSITION VACANT

PRESIDENT OF OUR ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Entomological Society of NSW requires a member of the Society with an interest in setting the direction of the Society over the next year. Young or old- it doesn't matter just as long as you think it is something you'd like to have a go at.

The successful candidate would preside at meetings of the Council and of the Society, provide general guidance in the formulation and development of policy, and act for the Society in such other ways as may further the objects.

The position is supported by an experienced Council who look forward to somebody stepping into this leading role. Just think how good it will look on your CV.

Expressions of interest will be snapped up. Just contact any of the Council members if you'd like to discuss this fantastic opportunity.

Constitution

The ESNSW held their AGM on 7th March and agreed all the proposed changes to the Constitution. An electronic copy will be sent to all members with this issue of Tarsus.

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NOTICE: Statements made in the Circular do not necessarily represent the views of the Entomological Society of New South Wales Inc. TARSUS is for educational purposes only.
TARSUS is prepared by for ESNSW by Graeme Smith Ph: 02 9981 3749 Email: le_gbsmith@optusnet.com.au

President's Report

As President it is very easy to become gloomy about the Society and its future and also to be frustrated by the inactions of members. One is constantly assailed by thoughts such as "How much more could be achieved if only everyone did just a little".

But the world we live in is divided into doers and followers with the latter outnumbering the former. I am not even sure how true the division is, because surely it cannot be the same group of people that do all the doing in the world. People probably take different roles in different parts of their lives. If my own situation is anything to go by this is true. I belong to a veterans cycling club, and I am occasionally asked join the committee, look after our equipment van or some other role in running the club. However with my commitments to the EntSoc and on the committee of my kids' little athletics club, I feel I am already doing my fair share of extra-curricular participation. I tell my cycling mates to be patient, I'll have some time eventually. In the mean time, I say to them, corner a couple of those SKI'ers or DINK's riding the \$10,000 bikes.

Perhaps the same is true for the many of our members who take no active role in the running of the Society. They may simply be overcommitted already.

But I am glad I took the plunge and joined the EntSoc Committee. It was probably the first committee I joined. In fact, I intend to get involved in any organisation I become involved in. Becoming a participant in a club or society or any group for that matter is like metamorphosing into another being. A new world awaits those who make the journey. You go from becoming invisible to taking part in inventing the future. You learn things and you get to meet effective, positive people.

2006 was another mixed one for the Society. We are still here. Our members seem to be happy paying their fees. We have meetings. We put out a Journal and a Circular.

On the other hand a lot of members are behind on their subscriptions. The majority of members don't attend meetings and it can be a struggle to find quality papers for the Journal. Recently a long-serving member told me that the Society had always been clouded by a sense of impending doom. So I guess there is nothing to worry about.

I'll briefly run through some aspects of the EntSoc's operations in 2006.

Finances

For the past few years the Society's finances years have been a source of concern. While our revenue base remained relatively static, costs burgeoned. As you would probably be sick of hearing, the major new costs were the venue hire and insurance.

In 2003 we made a net loss of \$5149.92, in 2004 we lost \$1644.44 and in 2005 we lost \$2817.28.

As you heard tonight from the Treasurer, this year we had an operating surplus of \$913.99.

This is a great result and stems primarily from actions taken by Council over the past 3 years to address the deficit. Not the least effective of these measures was the decision 2 years ago to increase the cost of membership. I thank members for the forbearance shown in accepting the increase.

The Society must remain on guard to prevent any rundown in its finances. While there appear to be no looming threats to the budget, opportunities to reduce cost and enhance revenues must be constantly explored.

This year Council discontinued the use of an external auditor to examine our accounts. This decision will save around \$500 each year. While not having an external audit has attendant risks, spending almost 10% of our revenue to ensure that that revenue was not misused could not be justified.

Another initiative to enhance revenue is the investment of a portion of our funds in a term deposit account. Until this year our funds were in a cheque account earning minimal interest. The investment will produce an annual return of around \$250.

For the first time in Society's history, to my knowledge at least, a budget has been prepared for the coming financial year. This predicts a very small operating loss for 2007. My thanks to Ted Taylor for preparing the budget and for his considerable ongoing efforts as the Society's Treasurer.

Membership

Membership of the Society declined from 123 in 2005 to 111 in 2006. While on the surface the decrease appears large, most of the members lost were un-financial. The number of financial members dropped by 2, from 96 to 94.

Amazingly, until a couple of years ago, the Society did not have an up to date electronic record of our membership. Fortunately this has now been addressed. It is essential that a single master copy is maintained and not allowed to become out of date. The Society must ensure that the maintenance of this record becomes one of its highest priorities.

Attendance at Meetings

Attendances at meetings in 2006 averaged 17.5, up from 15.5 in 2005 and 13.25 in 2004. One factor leading to the increase has been advertising. Through the issuing of an email flyer before meetings, we now inform non-members about our meetings. An area where we still fall down and see an opportunity to attract new people go begging is our failure to maintain an effective web site. The construction and maintenance of a site should become another top priority for the Society.

Circular

As you will all have noticed, for the past year, publication of the Circular has been in the expert hands of Simone McMonigal. Under Simone the Circular has become world-class. Unfortunately Simone will be resigning from her position this year.

Journal

In 2006 volume 35 of our Journal *General and Applied Entomology* was published. Once again Garry Levot did an excellent job cajoling authors and reviewers to see that the Journal not only had content but was of high quality and was published in a timely way.

Thanks to the other Councilors

I wish to express my thanks to all members of the 2006 Council for their efforts throughout the year.

Martin Horwood

TARSUS EDITOR

I would like to thank Simone McMonigal for the excellent job she carried out to produce Tarsus during 2006-2007.

She has set a very high standard which will be difficult to follow, and I don't pretend that I think I can do as well. I am prepared to hear your comments and constructive advice on how I can continue to improve things.

The quality of TARSUS is however, not just the responsibility of the Circular Editor. The content must come from the members and hopefully capture some of their enthusiasm for things entomological.

The Council Members already contribute a lot of their time to the Society so it would be great if members, even those who don't manage to get to meetings, could contribute to the Society by submitting articles of interest.

Graeme Smith

WANTED

Insect of the month contributions

With over one hundred members, each with their own special area of interest, there must be so many potential species to star in our "Insect of the Month" column.

It doesn't have to be spectacular, pretty or even well known. It can even be a noxious pest. There's always something interesting to be learned.

If you can supply the Circular Editor with a photograph or drawing (not limited by copyright) and a few interesting points on the insect's biology, it would be appreciated by all members, not just the Circular Editor

Aussie mozzies cause cockpit chaos on NZ flight

Six potentially disease-carrying mosquitoes swarmed through the cockpit of a Christchurch-bound plane on Sunday, biting an Australian pilot before being destroyed. Three mosquitoes were squashed before the flight from Brisbane landed at Christchurch International Airport and another three were destroyed after arrival in the hangar. Authorities say the invading insects were intercepted so posed no risk to the public.

Public health officers have since laid mosquito traps at the airport's No. 1 hangar - water-filled tyre traps to catch larvae, and light and carbon dioxide traps to catch adults. The exotic mosquitoes arrived on a Boeing 737 being flown to Christchurch for engineering work. No passengers were on board. Medical officer of health Alistair Humphrey would not say which airline operated the plane.

The two species found by public health officers are both common in Australia - *Aedes vigilax* and *Culex sitiens*. Both can be carriers of the Ross River virus, which can cause fever. The latter may also infect bite victims with Murray Valley encephalitis, a potentially devastating brain disease.

*Contributed by Martin Horwood
From Sydney Morning Herald 8/3/2007*

FUTURE BI-MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Council has agreed to continue the operation of the Society while we try to fill the position of President. However, the Society will meet only **BI-MONTHLY until further notice**. General meetings with a speaker will be held only on the “odd numbered” months (May, July, September, November) while the Council will meet more frequently. Speakers tentatively scheduled for the coming general meetings are shown below.

This timing allows us to alternate meetings with the Society For Insect Studies (SFIS) which meets at the Australian Museum at 7.30 on the second Tuesday of the “even numbered” months.

The next general meeting of the Entomological Society of NSW will be held at 7.30 pm on May 2 at the usual venue.

Seminar series 2007

Date	Speaker	Title
2 May	Grant Herron (NSW DPI)	- The changing face of secondary insect pests of Australian cotton
4 July	Sarah Mansfield (University of Sydney)	Predator and parasitoid behaviour and foraging
5 September	Graeme Smith (Reckitt Benckiser)	Testing consumer pest control products
7 November	Cameron Webb (Westmead Hospital)	Mosquitoes Title TBD

Venue:

Meeting Room 2
Ermington Community Centre
10 River Road Ermington

Meetings start at 7:30 p.m.

Talks run for around 45 minutes, with 10 minutes for questions. Afterwards a supper is provided. Guests are most welcome.

Getting there:

By Car: From Victoria Rd turn into Spurway St (head towards Parramatta River). Turn right into Jackson St then left into River Rd. If heading north on Silverwater Rd, turn right into Victoria Rd then proceed as above. If heading south on Silverwater Rd take the Parramatta off ramp, cross Victoria Rd and proceed into River Rd. If you miss the off ramp, turn left into South St, then left into River Rd.

By Bus: Routes 525, 523 and L20 depart from Argyle St near Westfield shopping centre near Parramatta station. Routes 523 and L20 depart from West Ryde station. Get off at the Ermington shops. River Rd passes between the supermarket and the hotel.

SOCIETY POSTAL ADDRESS
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THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM
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SYDNEY NSW 2000

MEMBERSHIP FEES 2007
ORDINARY MEMBERS \$50
COMPANY ASSOCIATES \$60
STUDENT MEMBERS \$25
CORPORATE MEMBERS \$50

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