

50th Anniversary of the Entomological Society of New South Wales Inc.

**The Entomological Society of New South Wales Inc. is marking an important milestone in 2003 -
50 years since it was founded in February 1953.**

The Entomological Society of NSW Inc. is actually the third organisation to bear this name. The first Society was established in May 1862 and continued until 1873. It took another 80 years before another Society with the same name commenced in May 1952, only to be disbanded a mere three years later (Chadwick 1995). The third and current 'incarnation' evolved from the Society of Entomologists, Sydney, which was active from February 1953 to December 1963, before being renamed the Entomological Society of Australia (NSW) in January 1964. The Society's constitution was amended in May 1980 and its name was finally changed to the Entomological Society of New South Wales.

The Society has had a number of meeting venues, reflecting changes in entomological development in NSW, and resultant changes in membership. In the early years, the Society was largely based in the City of Sydney and was closely associated with the Australian Museum, which hosted the majority of the Society's meetings and provided a focal point for members. In the mid 1980s the Society's central activities moved to NSW Department of Agriculture's Biological and Chemical Research Institute (BCRI) at Rydalmere in western Sydney, which provided it with a strong base for both membership and activities, until BCRI's closure in 1995. This closure impacted significantly on the Society, because its cohort of entomologists was subsequently widely dispersed throughout the State. However, as had occurred with previous challenges, the Society once again proved to be strong and resilient. Subsequent meeting venues have been Macquarie University, the University of Western Sydney at the Rydalmere and Richmond campuses, and several locations around the Parramatta area. We have recently found a more permanent home at the Ermington Community Centre.

The Society has also conducted visits and held meetings at a number of other entomological institutions throughout the State, particularly those where members are located. This has provided the opportunity to experience a diverse range of entomological activities as well as a chance for our local and Sydney-based members to meet formally and informally. In recent years, meetings have been held in a number of NSW regional localities ranging from Narrabri in north-western New South Wales, to Yanco in the south-west, and Orange in the central-west.



Participants in the Society's Entomological Weekend Workshop, Sydney University, October 1995.

Another important function of the Society has been its hosting of field collecting activities. Over the years, members have particularly enjoyed the collecting weekends at Sydney University's Crommelin House at Pearl Beach, north of Sydney. In recent years, other significant Society activities have included; the organisation of two Entomological Weekend Workshops (one on butterflies and the other on general entomology); the hosting of two (biennial) postgraduate entomology workshops with a third scheduled this year; and, since August 1996, mounting displays of live and preserved insects at the annual Ku-ring-gai Festival of Wildflowers. Insect illustration competitions and annual dinners have also been regular Society activities.



Ted Taylor manning the Society's display at the Ku-ring-gai Festival of Wildflowers.

A feature of the Society since 1964, and part of its constitution, has been the publication of a scientific journal. It has the distinction of being the only State-based entomology society in Australia to publish a refereed scientific journal. Prior to the journal, scientific papers received from members were produced in the Society's Circular, which at times became quite unwieldy. Originally titled the *Journal of the Entomological Society of Australia (NSW) (J. ent. Soc. (NSW))*, the first volume sold for £1/1/-. After more-or-less annual publication (viz. 9 volumes), in 1976 its name was changed to *General and Applied Entomology (Gen. appl. Ent.)*. In 1982 *General and Applied Entomology* was allocated an international serials number ISSN 0158-0760. In 1998 its format was revamped with its size increased to American Quarto and a new cover design selected with the Society emblem, and a white watermark of the insect drawing selected for that year. Throughout its time, the journal has weathered crises as the number, type and quality of manuscripts submitted has fluctuated. However, in 2003, its future appears bright with publication of this Volume 32. It is now indexed by the international abstracting services CAB International and BIOSIS and listed in Ulrich's Periodicals Directory. The Circular has remained, but as a members' newsletter, advertising the Society's meetings and activities, publishing summaries of talks and other items of entomological interest. In keeping with the electronic information age, the Society also operates a website (<http://entsocnsw.netfirms.com/>).

Societies survive and prosper largely because of the interest and activity of their membership, particularly those who contribute in official and unofficial capacities. The Society's Presidents are listed on the following page. Mr C.E. (Clarrie) Chadwick played a significant role in the early years of the Society. The Society is particularly indebted to Mr E.E. (Ted) Taylor, who, as the honorary treasurer has provided 34 unbroken years of service in this role.

The Society has had many achievements over the past 50 years and despite the decline in the number of professional entomologists, the size of our membership has remained virtually unchanged since its foundation in 1953. It is a society for people from all walks of life and our membership includes research scientists, university professors, lecturers and postgraduate students, as well as amateur and retired entomologists. The Society currently has three life members: C.E. Chadwick, C.N. Smithers and E.E. Taylor. The Society's main strengths are its diversity and adaptability, resilience, and the dedication and enthusiasm of its members.

We hope you enjoy this Golden Anniversary issue of *General and Applied Entomology* and we take this opportunity to thank all of our members and readers, and to convey our congratulations on the 50th birthday of your Society.

Alan E. Westcott, President 1994-1996

Robert N. Spooner-Hart, President 1997-2000

Presidents of the Society 1953 - 2003

YEAR	PRESIDENT
1953 - 1978	C.E. Chadwick - Inaugural President
1979	A.D. Clift
1980-1	J.M.E. Anderson
1982-3	C.N. Smithers
1984-5	M.S. Moulds
1986-7	M.J. Fletcher
1988-90	J.A. McDonald
1991-2	G.R. Brown
1993	A.D. Clift
1994-96	A.E. Westcott
1997-2000	R.N. Spooner-Hart
2001-3	O. Nicetic

REFERENCE

Chadwick, C.E. (1975). *Entomology in New South Wales 1970-1990*. The Society for Insect Studies, Sydney, Australia. 93pp.

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