

PUBLISHED BY THE
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ENTOMOLOGY

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE of ENTOMOLOGY NEWS



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OCTOBER 2025

FROM THE DIRECTOR



October is here and so is the Expo!! Final planning for our annual event has been finalized and we are set to go for 2025.

This years event will host many new exhibitors for the first time and this will offer visitors a new and fresh experience for this year.

One of the more unusual feature will be daily shows performed by Steve Gill from Gone Buggo.

Steve has a tremendous passion for insects and is excited at the idea of providing performances for all the kids...as well as mums and dads!

Of course, the exhibit itself is made to feel relaxed and inviting for all visitors thanks to the fantastic support of Riddells Creek Nursery.

For the last 2 years, the team at RCN have supplied all the planted trees and shrubs to both brighten up the showrooms as well as assist in crowd traffic flow. They will be there with a great range of nature based garden products.

Unfortunately our major sponsors Australian Entomological Supplies cant make it due to current workloads but they will be kindly offering free giveaways for all visiting children at the expo.

Keep listening to ABC National and Regional radio including Australia All Over with Macca for live crosses at the event this year. A full report in the next issue.

Dr Bert Candusio



Steve from Gone Buggo doing his thing.



Riddells Creek Nursery will also be providing all trees and shrubs for the event.

Meet The Expo Floor Manager

Ms Jessecia Bree is the National Institute of Entomology Vice Chairperson and Assistant Director / Floor Manager of the National Insect Expo.

She brings with her experience in event promotions and administration as well as numerous computing and software skills that assist our organization greatly.

She has always shared a vision for the importance of insect conservation and continues to

promote the valuable role that insects provide to the environment.

All exhibitors rely on Jessecia for assistance and guidance during Set-Up night in order to have everything ready for opening day.

She does an amazing job each year.



Ant ID Course 2021 Graduates

In November 2021, the National Institute of Entomology held its first ever course on the Ecology and Identification of the Ants of Australia.

This was during the height of the Covid period, so obviously, we had to take the necessary precautions for our students during classes.

After the 6 week course, our graduates were the first group of students to be registered into our Student Registrar. Today, over 350 students have graduated through the Institute.

We congratulated our graduates of the Ecology and Identification of the Ants of Australia

Course 2021 and held a Certificate Presentation on a wild and story evening at Woodend.

The 6 week course covered early evolution of the Hymenoptera, Classification of Insect Orders, Ecology of the Formicidae, The Ant Castes, Collecting Methods, Specimen Preparation, Collection Curation, Identification to Sub Family Level and Databasing a Collection.

This was such a successful course that the course has run twice yearly ever since.

The next is due to begin in November 2025.

Congratulations again to our very first graduates.

(Note: Several students couldn't attend the Graduation Presentations due to the severe weather experienced that evening in Woodend)



RIGHT: (Andrej Hohmann, Kylie McGenniskin and Violet, Danielle Thyne, Megan Radford, Bronwyn Morris with Course Director Dr Bert Candusio). (Missing: Greg Cassidy, Jonathan Stephens, Darcy Dreja, Elyse Dixen)

The C.V.R.I.C Story

The Central Victorian Regional Insect Collection (C.V.R.I.C) was established around 1956 by biology students from La Trobe University in Bendigo and totals around 250,000 specimens.

The majority of specimens were sampled during environmental assessment projects throughout Central Victoria with many specimens being new and undescribed to science.

Many specimens were also collected and donated by members of the public. Due to the redevelopment and planned demolition of the La-Trobe University Bendigo Applied Science Buildings in 2021, this unique and valuable collection was scheduled to be discarded.

Its scientific value was far too great to allow this to occur. Fortunately, this unique collection was saved and relocated to its new location and is currently undergoing curation and further development. What makes the C.V.R.I.C Collection so valuable is that it now represents the only specific collection of the entomological

fauna for the Central Victorian Region in existence.

The only other collection that existed was the former Insectarium of Victoria Collection which was sadly lost due to neglect by its new owners. In order to catalogue and database the C.V.R.I.C collection, and to utilize its full potential in future climatic change studies, all specimens are being digitized and cataloged.

Once completed, the C.V.R.I.C Collections will help make a positive contribution in addressing climate change and monitoring species decline as well as making a major contribution towards the understanding and conservation of the insect fauna of the entire central Victorian region. Many of the specimens held in the C.V.R.I.C collection are new and have never been named or described and include examples of insects collected during environmental surveys taken well over 50 years ago.

As a result, the collection represents a unique opportunity to document climatic change in this region from an entomological

perspective.

The collection not only covers the Insect Fauna of the region, but also houses many other invertebrate groups such as spiders, scorpions, centipedes, millipedes and many other orders forming a valuable resource of over 250,000 specimens.



Part of the Central Victorian Regional Insect Collection currently being curated.



Left to Right: 1. Sorted and Identified Ants (Formicidae). 2. Specimens prepared for the collection. 3. New Data labels added to each specimen.

The Vital Importance of Insects

Invertebrates, including insects, are the dominant faunal group in virtually all terrestrial habitats.

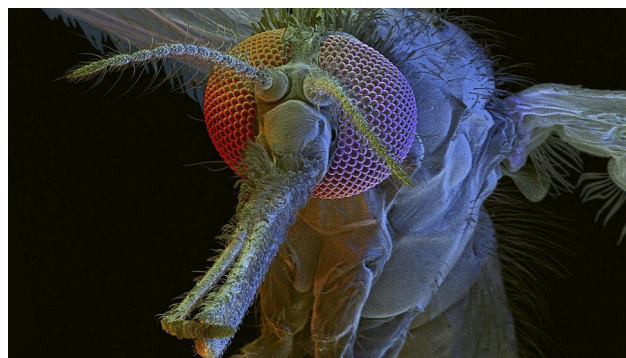
These animals play important roles, often completely misunderstood, in maintaining essential ecosystem services.

Despite the enormous environmental changes to the Australian continent since European settlement, and despite the lack of information about how these changes affected the native invertebrate fauna, it is not too late to include invertebrates in the management and restoration of native

habitats throughout Australia and all other global regions and environments.

The National Institute of Entomology provides an overview and focal point of our understanding about terrestrial insects and related invertebrate groups within Australia.

The institute also undertakes both research and community based educational courses and programs to help elevate the profile and utility of invertebrates both to the general public as well as conservation management.



Scanning Electron Microscope image of Culex Mosquito

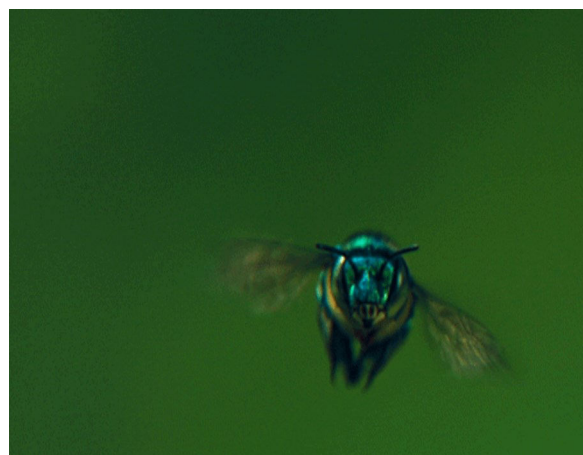
Institute at your Service

The National Institute of Entomology provides a variety of specialized services to assist Primary Producers, Conservation Organizations and Industry.

Our services include Insect and Invertebrate Identifications, Environmental Surveys and Assessments, Consultancy for Primary Producers and Conservation Groups as well as advising members of the public looking at enhancing the biodiversity of their own

land holdings.

For further information, please visit our [SERVICES PAGE](#) or contact the Institute to discuss your requirements or project.



The fully self sufficient N.I.O.E Invertebrate Survey Van is capable of surveying sites for up to 4 weeks without needing to be replenished.

AUSTRALIAN ENTOMOLOGICAL SUPPLIES PTY LTD 

Australian Entomological Supplies is a family-owned business that has been supplying entomologists, educators and enthusiasts alike with quality scientific equipment, supplies and books since 1962.

We proudly manufacture some of the finest entomological equipment available worldwide, right here in Australia. We are situated in the Northern Rivers of New South Wales, from where we supply products throughout Australia and the rest of the world.

If you have an entomological equipment need, we can most certainly meet it!

Submissions to Air Force and State Government

The National Institute of Entomology has continued its search for a permanent site in the form of 2 separate submissions.

The first is for the abandoned Department of Defense owned building situated at 10-12 Market Street, Kyneton. This was the former training facility used by the Air Force 430 Cadet Training Squadron and was abandoned due to structural and safety issues.

The N.I.O.E has offered to restore the site and building for either options of a Not For Profit donation to the Institute or a long term

token lease arrangement.

The other submission involves the empty and 12 million dollar refurbished former Kyneton Primary School.

It was originally designed and refurbished for use as a Public Art Gallery and Bendigo Art Gallery was approached with a partnership offer. Bendigo Gallery refused and this site has remained empty ever since.

The Institute has offered to manage the main bluestone section of the main building and establish a national and international training facility

for students wishing to study entomology.

Lets hope that either one of these submissions is received favorably by either group.

We are fast running out of options for a new home.



Top: Abandoned 430 Squadron building-Kyneton.

Bottom: Re-Developed and empty former Kyneton Primary School.

Board Member Spotlight - Ms Erin Collins

Ms Erin Collins is a National Institute of Entomology board member and has had a relationship with the institute from the early 1980's.

She has had a keen fascination of insects for many years and has worked towards their conservation and appreciation over a long period of time.

Erin offers support and input towards the overall goals of the Institute and contributes to its development on a regular basis.

She holds qualifications in several biological disciplines including Conservation and Ecosystem Management, as well as a Certificate Qualification in Veterinary Nursing.

She has conducted extensive field work with the Bush Heritage Organization working towards the conservation of the endangered Plains Wanderer.

She is also an active member of the Northern Bendigo Landcare Group.



Ms Erin Collins - N.I.O.E Board Member.

Institute Membership

Becoming a Member of the National Institute of Entomology offers several benefits such as:

- 1: Discounts to Members wishing to undertake our Courses and Training Programs.
- 2: Access to our facilities if you are wishing to work on your own Research or Study Project.
- 3: Members are offered the opportunity to serve on a variety of Organizing Com-

mittees and Sub Committees.

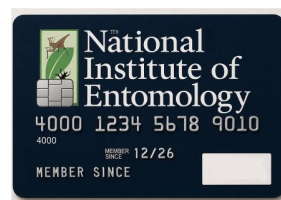
4: As a Member of the National Institute of Entomology, you receive our Monthly Newsletter keeping you updated on Institute News.

5: You are granted access to the Institutes extensive Forums covering Taxonomy/News/Job Vacancies and Volunteer Opportunities.

6: Discounted tickets to the annual National Insect Ex-

po.

To become a Member of the National Institute of Entomology, please visit our [Membership Page](#) for further details and Membership Options.



C.V.R.I.C Specimen Spotlight

Pompilidae:

The Pompilidae are represented in Australia by about 260 described species with at least this number yet to be recognised; the New Zealand fauna is limited to only 11 species. Varying in size from small (3 mm) to large (35 mm) wasps, pompilids are characterised by long legs long and the fore wing not folded longitudinally at rest.

In addition, many species have bright or contrasting colour patterns with black and orange, or black, white and grey markings. These colours are indicative of mimicry patterns that also involve other families of Hymenoptera.

Pompilids are predatory wasps that are often referred to a 'spider wasps' because of their obligate use of spiders as food for their developing larva.

They are common in coastal and arid habitats where they paralyse a single spider and either oviposit on it in the spider's burrow or remove the spider to their own previously constructed burrow.

The spider remains immobile and is consumed by the wasp larva. Pompilids are rarely prey-specific but many specialise in collecting web-building species versus flower spiders, ground-hunting species or tunnelling spiders.

Taxonomically, this is a very difficult group and although some genera have been revised, there is no available guide to the Australian fauna. Harris (1987) treated the New Zealand species in detail and Harris (1987) and Day (1988) provide comprehensive reviews of biology and other aspects of the group.



Turneromyia bassiana
(Turner, 1912)



Entomology Software

Databasebase.com.au

TESTED 100 % COMPATIBLE WITH ANY WINDOWS XP VISTA or WINDOWS 7/8/10/11

Easy to use for those with little computer experience
Suitable for any type of insect collection.
Record each specimen in your collection including collecting data and images.

Track each specimen with detailed specimen record data including images.

Reference records can also be created in addition to specimen records, allowing the user to have a database of desired species and creation of a master list. Selectable and editable species reference lists including web links and image fields to create your own species references. Reference records can be imported to create specimen records or life history records.

Life history records are also provided for with a separate database.
Contacts and suppliers records including

email addresses and URLs.
Powerful filtering is available to locate and report desired data.

Very flexible reports available as complete and list reports which can be filtered.

Report on a particular species, genus or any combination of criteria. View or print reports as desired. **Reports can also be saved to pdf files so you can view them on your phone or tablet.**

Simple image insertion. Just one click and select your file.

Record pricing for purchased specimens, their current value and sale price. Grand totals are included.

Dual record indexes ordered by scientific or common name. Any applied filters are also applied to the indexes. Find records or record groups quickly and easily. User editable drop down fields where users can enter their own commonly used data for selection.

Cascading selections for fields from order to subspecies. This means for example when you select a family, the genus

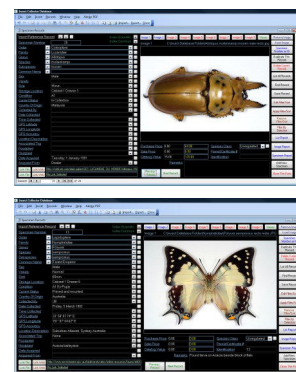
selections are only those contained in the selected family.

Direct filters for fields Order to Subspecies which will apply a filter directly from a selection. For example choosing Papilio from the Genus filter will apply the filter to display all records which are genus Papilio.

Supplied on CDROM. Installation wizard included making installation a breeze. Database supplied with reference records for all the Australian butterflies including all subspecies (excluding images). These can be removed if not desired.

Suitable for Windows 2000 SP3 or later including any Windows XP and any Windows Vista or Windows 7/8/10/11. All 32 and 64 bit versions of Windows supported. Not suitable for Windows 8 RT.

Screen size 1280 x 720. Your monitor needs to have a resolution of 1280 pixels wide or higher, and 720 pixels high or higher.



The Databasebase software:

**Ideal for Entomology
Collection indexing.**

New Imaging Equipment

The Institute has acquired an upgraded Olympus SZ40 for its database imaging requirements.

The Microscope setup is also equipped with a 4K High Resolution imaging camera which allows for still and video photographic capture of a specimen.

Using the Video capability of the camera, its possible to record video while adjusting the field of view focus length.

With Image Stacking software such as Zerene Stacker, the

video may be stacked with the result being that images can be made to look in focus throughout the entire imaging plane.

This setup is a much needed improvement to other equipment used previously and will greatly assist in providing high quality images for all specimen records held in the Institutes Collections.



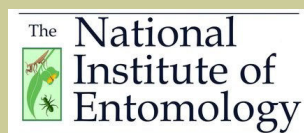
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The National Institute of Entomology NEWS accepts advertising from all Entomological suppliers, businesses and institutions.

If you are interested in advertising here, please contact the institute on: admin@entoinstitute.org

CONSERVATION.RESEARCH.TRAINING.

Members Committee Opportunity

The National Institute of Entomology will shortly be calling for interested members to serve on the Institutes Funding and Grants Committee.

The role of the Committee will be to apply for grants and funding in order to assist the Institute towards equipment acquisitions, purchase of entomological storage cabinets and other equipment or institute training and courses programs.

Keep watching this section for further announcements and when to apply.

The Institute is supported by the kind generosity of members of the public by way of donations to the Institute. Such donations may be in the form of unwanted Scientific Equipment (microscopes, laboratory supplies etc), Entomological Reference Books, Audio Visual Equipment, Entomological Insect Collections or Monetary Donations.



These generous contributions assist the Institute in supporting our students and members of the public that are undergoing entomological studies and programs as well as supporting the Institutes Ongoing Research Work. If you are wanting to make a valued Donation towards our work, here is the link: [Donations](#)

If you would like to consider and discuss making another non monetary donation to the National Institute of Entomology, please feel free to contact us on [ad-min@entoinstitute.org](mailto:admin@entoinstitute.org)

Study Opportunities

The National Institute of Entomology provides specific On-Line Courses, Training Presentations, National Entomology Club, Demonstrations and Entomological Lectures that can cater for both the individual or a larger group of up to 50 students interested in gaining knowledge on various entomology based subjects.

Courses and Programs are offered throughout the year and include Certificate Courses in General Entomology, Applied Entomology, Insect Classification, Identification Courses, Entomological Collecting Techniques and much more.

See our [COURSES PAGE](#) for more details.

Say goodbye to You-Tube videos. Here you get to directly interact with, as well as ask questions to

your National Institute of Entomology Lecturer in real time.

Our C.S.I.R.O Qualified presenters will show you that there is no better or more effective way to learn a valuable entomological skill or acquiring an Entomological Course Certificate than by using the Institutes On-Line programs.

From Specialist Courses, Identification of Insects, Preserving Specimens, Rearing Techniques....the subjects available to you are vast.

Want to have something specific presented to you or your group? This is the place for all your Courses, Lecture and Demonstration requirements. Details on all courses are available on our [COURSES PAGE](#).

The Institute uses Zoom, a popular conferencing application for both PC or Mobile devices. You can download Zoom here: [ZOOM DOWN-LOAD PAGE](#)

