

PUBLISHED BY THE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
ENTOMOLOGY

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE of ENTOMOLOGY NEWS



The
National
Institute of
Entomology

The official newsletter of the National Institute of Entomology

Volume 2: Issue 10

October 2026

FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Greetings everyone.

WHAT AN EXPO!

The 2026 National Insect Expo held at Woodends Buffalo Stadium was our best ever with a record 8740 visitors coming through the doors during the 3 day event.

This year we saw several highlights. Gavin McGrath and Matt Tribe from ABC Radio did a full 3 hour show 'LIVE' from the expo and it was so successful, that it will now be an expo permanent feature.

In fact, as from next year, ABC will also include the Melbourne ABC 774 coverage area to help spread the expo happenings.

Another main attraction this year was the STEM Scanning Microscope Unit in the Activities room where children were able to select their specimens and image them at super high resolutions.

They were then able to record their images onto a Memory Stick to take home. I bet a lot of kids had some great Show and Tells when they got back to school on the Monday.

Another bright star this year was the Live Butterfly enclosure setup in what we call the Warm Room.

Unlike the larger Zoo type butterfly houses, this one was small enough to accommodate several people at the same time and because of the enclosures size, butterflies were guaranteed to land all over you.

What a great photo op for all the mums and dads and of course...the kids!

As usual for all our team that put on the annual National Insect Expo, we are taking a

well earned break to recharge ourselves in order to get back to Institute activities.

New courses will be available shortly and several other important projects are now underway (more news soon).

See you all in November for our final Newsletter for 2026.

Take care.

Dr Bert Candusio

THE ABC RADIO CREW

Matt Tribe and Gavin McGrath did an amazing live broadcast at the Expo. In case you missed it, here is the logo linking to the episode.



Who Will Win The ABC National Insect of the Year ?

Two very different butterflies, a pair of cute beetles, the iconic Otway glow-worm and a super-fly guy with eyes on stalks.

These are the 2026 ABC Australian Insect of the Year finalists selected by experts ahead of a national vote to choose the nation's favorite small wonder.

The Australian Insect of the Year is an annual online poll run by the ABC in partnership with insect conservation organizations.

This year's top six were nominated by the CSIRO, Invertebrates Australia, Australian Entomological Society and Zoos Victoria, along with Gardening Australia magazine and A Naturalist's Guide to the Insects of Australia.

Their finalists:

Gold Christmas beetle

(*Anoplognathus aureus*)

Mallee Bronze Azure butterfly

(*Ogyris subterrestris*)

Orchard swallowtail butterfly

(*Papilio aegaeus*)

Otway glow-worm (*Arachnocampa*

otwayensis)

Stalk-eyed signal fly (*Achias australis*)

Tortoise-shelled ladybird (*Harmonia testudinaria*)



[You can cast your vote for the 2026 Australian Insect of the Year until the end of October.](#)

Tiny Fijian bee species first described two years ago already facing extinction

A tiny Fijian bee species has only just been discovered by scientists but it is already the precipice of extinction.

Scientist Tegan Edwards spent a month in Fiji battling humidity, heat and rain while wrangling a 9-meter pole with a net as she searched for a bee smaller than a grain of rice that almost no-one has heard of. Such is the work of trying to save a creature at risk of becoming extinct before its existence is even known.

"It's a pretty common situation, especially with insects," Ms Edwards said.

"It's hard to catalogue them because they're so diverse and it's hard to see them before they go, especially in areas that are more under-studied."

The masked bee, *Hylaeus navaia*, was first formally described in 2024. But it is at risk of what ecologists like David Attenborough have called "silent extinction".

Researchers believe the species has suffered a 99 per cent population collapse in the last 150 years. Their findings were published in the peer-reviewed scientific journal Ecology and Evolution this week.

Ms Edwards said European insects were extremely well researched, but experts still had a lot to discover about what lived on Australia's neighbors in the Pacific Islands.

That is what led her and fellow University of Wollongong (UOW) colleague James Dorey to Fiji to begin their search.



A female example of the bee, as found and documented by scientist James Dorey. (Supplied: James Dorey)

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.

AES proudly manufactures some of the finest entomological equipment available worldwide, right here in Australia.

They are situated in the Northern Rivers of New South Wales, from where they can supply products throughout Australia and the rest of the world.

If you have any entomological equipment needs, they can most certainly meet your requirements!

Visit them at [Australian Entomological Supplies](#)

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Endangered bogong moths swarming into homes across NSW

Every year, the peanut-sized moths migrate to the NSW Alps to escape the summer heat before returning to their inland breeding grounds in autumn.

But the insect's population has fallen steadily since the 1980s due to drought and warming temperatures.

In 2017, numbers crashed by as much as 99.5 per cent, and in 2021 they were listed as endangered. Western Sydney University Entomologist Eleanor Drinkwater told 702 ABC Sydney it was pleasing to see the moths in such significant numbers.

"The last few years we haven't seen so many bogong moths," she said.

Dr Drinkwater said the moths were on their way to the high country around Mount Kosciuszko as the weather warmed up. "They're not trying to get into your house, they're just trying to migrate," she said.

Bogong Watch Project manager at Invertebrates Australia Linnea Emneby said many people had forgotten what a migration looks like.

"We have seen a decline in bogong moths this decade, which has changed people's perception of what a said.

migration looks like," she said.



University of Sydney biologist Dieter Hochuli said the moths would be found hiding in crevices in the day to avoid predation by birds.

"There's a lot of birds and mammals and everything that's going to want to eat them," Mr Hochuli told ABC.

ABC.



Eleanor Drinkwater said the large numbers were a sign that something was going right. (Supplied: Eleanor Drinkwater)

Can Rushden, U.K finally swat its problem with flies?

For more than a decade, people who live close to an industrial estate in Rushden, Northamptonshire, say they have been plagued by flies and a persistent smell.

The problem has been reported to the Environment Agency (EA) who say they continue to monitor the situation.

On Monday, the Labor MP for Wellingborough and Rushden, Gen Kitchen, called a public meeting at Rushden Hall for residents to air their views. It had to move outside as the room could not hold the large number who turned up.

So are the authorities finally set to deal with it? The source of the flies

and the smell has never been officially confirmed, but businesses and residents believe it comes from the recycling centre Monoworld, on the Sanders Lodge Industrial Estate.

The company has been approached for comment.

However, the BBC understands that it has previously strongly denied it is the cause of any of the problems and believes its control procedures are fully effective. James Pamplin, 49, has lived in the area since 2019 and says he loves his home - but dealing with the problem is "horrendous".

He said he was not aware of the problem "until it was too late".

Every time his family tries to eat outside, he says, "within minutes a little swarm of flies lands on the food - it's absolutely disgusting".

He described how the summer's extreme heat left the problem "really bad" and the smell was "unbelievable".



James' wife Nadia Pamplin says it has been "impossible to open the doors and the windows" during the summer months

Cont...

If windows are kept open up to 40 flies will enter "in about five minutes, it's not normal", Pamplin added.

He confirmed he keeps on reporting the problems to the EA but if things do not change he might investigate legal options.

He said the only time the situation eased was for a few months after May 2025 when Monoworld had a huge fire. "I spoke to all the neighbours and they were like, it still smells of smoke, but have you noticed there's not a single fly?

"It was lovely, it was really nice, but when operations started again the flies started again." Pamplin's wife Nadia, 49, adds: "I've got quite a sensitive nose, the smell really makes me feel sick, it interrupts my day, I have to get out of the house to get away from it.

"We've got a beautiful skylight up there, we cannot use it at all. I work from home so my mental health is not great. My blood pressure is through the roof, it's affecting me quite a lot and everyone else around here says the same."

She said her husband attended the meeting but concluded that "no one

had any good ideas". Gen Kitchen said: "I visited Monoworld last year after the fire.

"Local residents raised with me that the problem with excessive flies around the site has continued since the fire.

"Although I have raised this myself with the EA I wanted to provide an opportunity for local people to also have their say. Their frustrations around the issue were clear to see and I hope this marks a turning point."



James Pamplin said living in the shadow of Monoworld had made his life "stressful" and his home has to remain "sealed" to try to keep the insects out

The Great Bee Heist—800,000 Bees Gone

An estimated 800,000 bees, worth tens of thousands of dollars, have been stolen from properties in far north [Queensland](#).

The industry is already reeling from the [this month's arrival](#) of the varroa mite parasite.

Tom Bidner, an apiarist from the Atherton Tablelands, west of Cairns, said 44 colonies had been stolen from three different beekeepers. "This isn't over yet," he said. "We've got so many colonies to get through. We're still getting around and checking all our different sites." He estimated that each hive contained at least 20,000 bees, making it a total of more than 800,000.

The alleged thefts happened on multiple different properties in different areas and required a sophisticated operation and specialist equipment.

Rather than risking early detection by stealing an entire box, they took out what's known as the brood box. That means the hive appears unchanged from afar.

"They're rocking up with a truckload of gear, basically, and they're transferring our frames into their boxes ... and putting our hives back together, so it doesn't sort of alert any of the growers that it looks like someone's been in and done such a thing," Bidner said. The thieves also didn't take any honey, which was left on the hive.

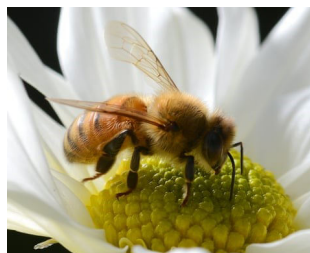
He suspects that the culprits are probably people

He suspects that the culprits are probably people from within the industry. The apiarists will lose not just the stolen insects but the value of the pollination contracts, which can run into the thousands of dollars, he said. The grower will also lose out due to lower quality flowering.

Bidner said it was the biggest theft in memory, though far from the first.



Honeybee hives in a field. NSW Police believe the alleged theft of 80 beehive boxes occurred sometime between Tuesday 31 March and Wednesday 6 May. Photograph: PamWalker68/Getty Images



Support Needed For Our Go Fund Me

The National Institute of Entomology has begun a Go Fund Me campaign for essential equipment that will be required at the new facility once we settle in.

The new site, situated at 16 Sydney Street, Kilmore Victoria, will require up to 30 research grade microscopes for use by students undertaking specific in house courses with the Institute.

Although there are cheaper models that are manufactured

in China, the optical quality of these instruments is not to the standard required.

The institute will be looking at acquiring used but good quality Olympus SZ40 or SZ 60 Models with trinocular configurations to allow the attachment of imaging instruments to be added at a later stage.

Please consider supporting this important fundraising effort for our future students.

<https://gofund.me/376dd5d55>



Two of the Models of the Olympus SZ40 that will be required for institute students. 30 of these units will be needed.

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 Committees 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 Members Tickets to the annual National Insect Expo.

To become a Member of the National Institute of Entomology, please visit our

[Membership Page](#) for further details and Membership Op-

tions or call the Institute on 03 7038 9452.

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C.V.R.I.C Specimen Spotlight

C.V.R.I.C Specimen:00507

MANTODEA / Mantidae

Archimantis sobrina

Collection Date: 04 Jan 2025
K.J. McGenniskin / Raywood-VIC

The Large Brown Mantid is one of around 170 species of praying mantis found in Australia.

As with other mantids, the large brown mantid is a voracious predator, using its spiny forelegs to grab other insects out of the air.

Mantids have even been reported attacking small birds, lizards, and other vertebrates

Both sexes brown, sometimes green. Adult males with long wings covering the abdomen; females with short wings, unable to fly.

Females generally larger than males; max size around 12 cm

Mantidae is one of the largest families in the order of praying mantises, based on the type species *Mantis religiosa*; most genera are tropical or subtropical.



Current Courses – Change of Dates

Current courses listed here are now open for enrollments and include programs that range from Basic to Advanced Level Instruction and would suit students from early secondary to university level.

The National Bug Club is suitable for young students from 7 to 17 years of age.

The Institute recommends that students begin with our most popular entry level **INTRODUCTION TO ENTOMOLOGY COURSE (NIOE - 01C)** which allows the student to gain a good foundation of entomology in general and assists

assists the student in progressing towards more advanced courses if he or she wishes. This fundamental course is run throughout the year.

The Insect Morphology Modules one and two will introduce the student to the external morphology of the insect in general and will look at the variability, adaptability and functions of each feature.

For further details regarding these courses, please contact the Institute on 03 7038 9452 or email us on admin@entoinsitute.org

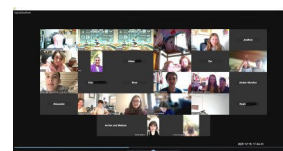
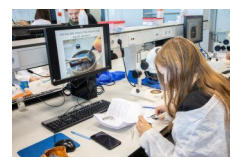
COURSES DATES

[Introduction to Entomology: October 21st 2026.](#)

[National Bug Club Term 3: Every Tuesday 5:30 - 6:00 Pm.](#)

[Insect Morphology Module 1: November 18th 2026.](#)

[Insect Morphology Module 2: December 2nd 2026.](#)



Book Review - The Secret Life of Flies : Erica McAlister

The Secret Life of Flies is one of those entomological books that once you start reading, you cannot put the book down.

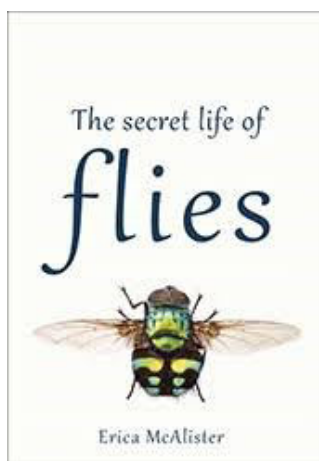
Flies are a fascinating group of insects and the author beautifully describes the biology and behavior of the major family groups.

Although the book is concentrated on many countries other than Australia, the wealth of biological information found

in this publication makes it highly valuable as a reference source.

First published in 2017, the information is relatively up to date as far as describing the biology and behavior of this vast group of insects.

Illustrated with high quality images makes this publication even more attractive to have in your entomological library.



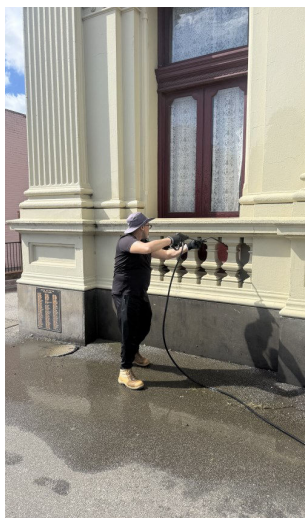
Erica McAlister

National Institute of Entomology Nearly Ready

Now that most of the furniture, equipment, specimen collections and other gear has been setup at the Institute, its time to start planning signage and to start looking at general appearance of the front of the building.

The first step was the thorough pressure wash of the entire front façade of the building to get rid of accumulated dirt, dust and bird droppings.

The guys did a fantastic job and the building frontage is now clean and restored.



We have now finalized the signage designs for the building and will be submitting the concept to Mitchell Shire Council for approval soon.



We wanted to keep the overall look of the main façade as original as possible while still being able to have the National Institute of Entomology brand clearly seen.

Two new stick insect species uncovered in Far North Queensland

Some look to the stars in the hope of finding alien life forms, but others hunt for outlandish creatures living much closer to home. For entomologist Braxton Jones, searching for insect life was far more exciting than waiting for extra-terrestrials to show up.

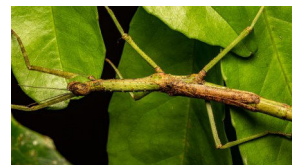
"In movies, they try to design all these crazy aliens, but all you have to do is just look at the insect world because they already exist," he said.

The University of Sydney researcher has discovered two new stick insect species, *Anchiale robusta* and *Anchiale mabiensis*, in Far North Queensland.

Anchiale robusta, which has large, mottled wings and grows to a length of about 160 millimetres, was found to live in coastal rainforest from Tully to north of Cooktown.

Anchiale mabiensis has only been observed in the Mabi Forest on the Atherton Tablelands and is slightly smaller and more slender, growing to about 115mm.

Dr Jones's findings have been published in the scientific journal *Austral Entomology*. Dr Jones said the first indication of a potential new species was how it looked. "So the color of the wings, or the shape of the wings, and that's very



A female example of *Anchiale mabiensis*. (Supplied: Angus J. Emmott)

Cont...

consistent within that species, but it's very different between species," he said. Dr Jones said he was always keen to collect living females so that the eggs could be examined.

"I don't know any other organism where this applies, but you can take the egg alone, and from the egg you can identify the species," he said.

Dr Jones said *Anchiale mabiensis* had particularly unusual eggs, featuring a series of rings and a lid. He said the eggs of other species were sometimes glued, buried, or featured a silk

-like substance, but nothing like the new discovery.

"It's the only stick insect or the only egg that we've been able to find that has these rings on it," he said. Dr Jones said the identification of new species was important for conservation efforts, particularly for creatures only found in small areas.

Terry Carmichael from the Wet Tropics Management Authority said the biodiversity of the region was well known and growing.

But he said the understanding

of different invertebrate species was lagging behind other groups of animal life.

"It's the number one thing we hear from researchers — we don't know enough to make some decisions sometimes" Mr Carmichael said.



Braxton Jones collected samples from a number of regions. (Supplied: Braxton Jones)

An Expo Exhibitor Story - Victorian Carnivorous Plant Society

Did you know that Victoria had its own Carnivorous Plant Society?

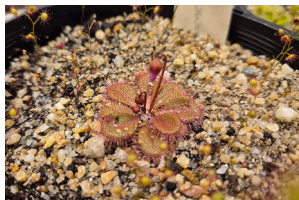
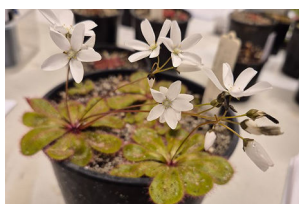
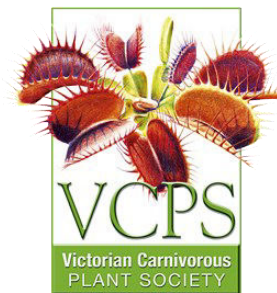
The Victorian Carnivorous Plant Society (VCPS) is a non profit organization formed in 1984 primarily for the enjoyment of carnivorous plants (CPs) and also for their study, conservation and cultivation. The society has members from all over the world with most being located in South East Australia where the state of Victoria is situated.

Members enjoy a quarterly journal and are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings.

There is also a seed-bank and an extensive CP library available. There is a forum where you can ask questions about CPs, perhaps show off some photos and for general discussions on CPs.

Some major events on the VCPS calendar are field trips and the annual show including the National Insect Expo which gives the general public a chance to see some of the best cultivated CPs anywhere in Australia.

It is also a chance for them to ask questions and gain a better understanding of the plants. [Join today!](#)



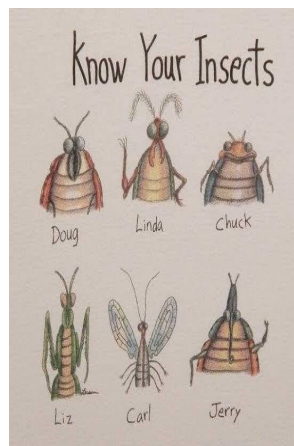
Peter Bloem: Secretary

Some of the fascinating carnivorous plants belonging to the society members and on show at the Insect Expo each year.

Left to Right:

Drosera zonaria
Drosera macrophylla
Drosera brownianna

It's A Bugs Life..



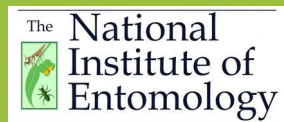
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Members Committee Positions Now Open

The National Institute of Entomology is currently looking 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.

Members should contact the Institute on 03 7038 9452 if interested.

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@entoinsitute.org](mailto:admin@entoinsitute.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 trained 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 DOWNLOAD PAGE](#)

