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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 7

July 2026

FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Greetings everyone.

As we work towards our relocation to the permanent new home in Kilmore, there have been several important developments in the past few weeks.

Firstly, our first Bachelor of Entomology Certificate Graduate, Mr Noah Filippone has completed his Degree and will be presented his Certificate at a planned Special Ceremony in the near future.

Congratulations Noah!

In other news, the Institute of Entomology has received an important donation to our reference library from the

Gaultieri Family of Melbourne (see page 2).

We thank them for their kind generosity.

Also, we have now made available several Volunteer Positions for members of the public to serve on several important committees including the National Insect Expo Planning Committee and the National Institute of Entomology Grants Committee.

These important positions will greatly assist our institute in future planning and funding for our students and members.

If you are interested, please contact the Institute.

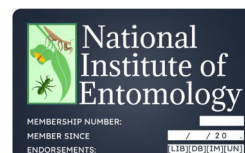
I would also like to inform our readers that our new Membership Cards have been printed and Memberships to the National Institute of Entomology will be available soon.

If all goes well, our next Newsletter in August will be sent from our new home.!

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If all goes well, our next Newsletter in August will be sent from our new home.!

Until then, stay warm everyone.



Dr Bert Candusio

ABC Gardening Australia Expo 2025 Televised

The ABC gardening Australia Episode featuring the 2025 National Insect Expo went to air on Friday the 5th of June and what a response it has generated.

Our story went for a full '10 Minutes' with Costa Georgiadis giving our story a fantastic introduction and Millie Ross taking the viewer all over the event.

Millie conducted several interviews with some of our exhibitors including Reece Dockrill from Dockrill Habitats, Citrus Australia's Jacqui Mitchell and the team from both Invertebrates

Australia and Zoo's Victoria's Kate Pearce and Jessie Sinclair.

The Institute has had great feedback from the public.

In case you missed it, here is the Episode Link:

<https://iview.abc.net.au/video/RF2505V017500>



National Bug Club Term 2 Comes to an End

All our students of the National Bug Club have had a fantastic Term 2 with many exciting classes being presented to the group.

This included several *Special Guests* popping in to the classes to talk all about insects and to answer student questions as well.

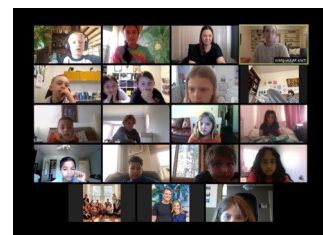
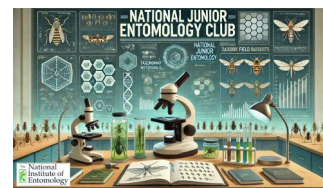
Term 2 covered many manyand

new and exciting discoveries of the insect world by entomologists all across the globe, student activities such as designing insect themed Board Games and Insect Physiology.

One particular project kept students on an Indoors Safari hunting down and documenting what species and what levels of biodiversity

was to be found within their own homes. Following on from their surveys around the house, every student then presented their own results and findings to the rest of the class.

Term 3 will also clash with the Institute relocation so we are working to be ready in time to recommence the term during relocation operations.



National Bug Club

Major Donation To Institute Library

The National Institute of Entomology has received an important and significant donation in the form of a Full Set of the Final Edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica.

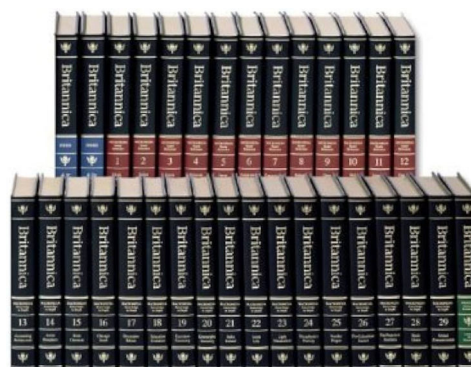
This donation was made possible by the kind generosity of Mr David Galtieri and Family from Melbourne.

The perfect set includes all the

additional Science of the Future Supplement Volumes as well as the Medical and Yearbook Additions.

Dr Bert Candusio, the Institute Chairman said that this valuable asset will be of great assistance to students needing to reference general knowledge on numerous subjects in conjunction with their Entomological studies.

"Besides, books also smell nice", he said.



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!

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Dillant Sponsorship

The team at Dillant has kindly offered to put forward a Prize of one of their wonderful ant enclosures to students of the National Bug Club.

During the Term 2 School Holidays, students will be given their assignments and once classes resume, the winning entry will be announced.

But it doesn't stop there.

All Students will be offered a permanent 20% discount on the entire product line at Dillant so that students can purchase all their Ant Keeping gear whenever they need to.

Our tremendous thanks go to the Dillant Team, Craig and Dillon for supporting the students of the National Bug Club.



First Furniture Arriving at the Institute

Our first Institute Office Furniture will be delivered shortly in the form of 6 matching Bookshelves that will house the National Institute of Entomology Research and Reference Library.

We managed to find units with tall enough shelves to handle some of the larger sizes of several of our publications.

These units will be setup in the dedicated Library and Board Meeting Room on the Grond Floor.



Our new Library Bookshelf units will arrive soon at the Institute ready for installation in the joint Library and Board Room on the ground floor.

New Planking Mantis Discovery

Researchers have identified three new-to-science species of snake mantises, two from Australia and one from Papua New Guinea, and figured out their distribution and behavior with the help of citizen scientists.

Matthew Connors, a Ph.D. candidate at James Cook University in Australia, led the effort to revisit the taxonomy of *Kongobatha*, a little-studied group of praying mantises known as snake mantises for the snake-like patterns on their wings.

They're also referred to as leaf-planking mantises, because they press their bodies against leaves to camouflage. The blending in helps because they are both predators of insects, including flies and mosquitoes, and prey themselves.

"They have this special organ right on their chest that is a sensory thing, and it helps them flatten themselves down really nicely against a leaf, so that they're really hard for a predator to see," Connors said in a news release.

Previously only two species of *Kongobatha* were known: one from Australia and another from Papua New Guinea. Now, there are three more, named *K. serpens*, *K. spinosistyla* and *K. rufilinea*.

To describe these three species, Connors collected new specimens of the mantises and sourced others from Australian and international museums and private collections.



The unusual Planking Mantids recently discovered.

PATHWAYS PROGRAM PRODUCES FIRST GRADUATES

The National Institute of Entomology PATHWAYS Degrees Program has produced its first graduate of the Bachelors Certificate of Entomology.

It is with great pride that the Institute has awarded our First Graduate, Mr Noah Filippone of Melbourne and his achievement has now been entered into our Student Graduates Registrar.

Noah has had a keen interest in the science of Entomology and after

successfully completing the Introduction to Entomology Course in 2025, he went on to further studies in order to work towards the Bachelors Certificate.

His Academic Transcript and Bachelors Certificate will be presented at a Special Graduates Ceremony to be held at the National Institute of Entomology, Level 2—16 Sydney Street, Kilmore, VIC. 3764 in the not too distant future.

Congratulations Noah on your achievement and hard work. There are several other students that are undertaking PATHWAYS in 2026 as well.



Congratulations Noah Filippone, our first Bachelor Certificate Graduate.

For more information regarding the National Institute of Entomology Pathways Programs, visit our websites [Pathways Page](#).

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 SZ60 Models with trinocular configurations to allow the attachment of imaging instruments to be added at a later stage.

Please consider supporting and sharing 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 Entomology 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.

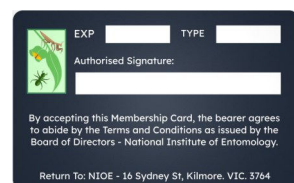
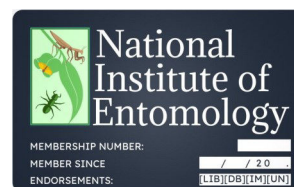
6: Access to the National Institute of Entomology—Central Victorian Regional Invertebrate Collection Database.

7: Discounted tickets to the annual National Insect Expo.

See our [Membership Page](#) for further details and Member-

ship Options.

Membership renews each year.



Return To: NIOE - 16 Sydney St, Kilmore, VIC. 3764

C.V.R.I.C Specimen Spotlight

C.V.R.I.C Specimen:000003

Family: Hesperidae
 Genera: Ocybadistes
 Species: walkeri
 Common Name: Yellow Banded Dart.

This specimen was acquired as part of the CVRIC Collections in 2022.

Ocybadistes walkeri, the greenish grass-dart, green grass-dart, southern dart or yellow-banded dart, is a type of butterfly known as a skipper found in eastern and southern Australia, with one subspecies found in the Northern Territory.

The larvae feed on *Dianella*, *Brachypodium distachyon*,

Cynodon dactylon, *Erharta erecta*, *Panicum maximum*, *Pennisetum clandestinum* and *Thuarea involuta*.

This skipper belongs to a group of skippers (Hesperiinae) that are more at home in the hot tropics and subtropics. Along with *Taractrocer papyria*, it has adapted to cold temperate areas of Australia and Tasmania.



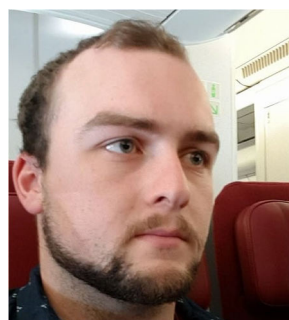
Volunteer of the Month - Dylan G Jones

Dylan Jones has been a part of the National Institute of Entomology team for many years.

Every year, Dylan plays a vital role in the setting up of the National Insect Expo and is responsible for laying out and fixing all Electrical Outlets, Lead extensions and other Power requirements as may be required by our expo exhibitors.

On expo set-up day each year, he has over 200 metres of leads to sort out and safely fix into position for the duration of the event.

Thanks Dylan. You're a Champ



Mr Dylan G Jones.



Book Review –A Guide to the Mosquitoes of Australia

Students of Australia's Mosquito species will find this particular work a great addition to their library.

This softcover published by CSIRO Publishing and written by Cameron Webb, Stephen Doggett and Richard Russell provides details on the distribution, habitats and ecological roles of species found in Australia.

There are also sections in the book that looks at methods for controlling particular pest species and also covers methods of preparing, pinning and curation of Mosquito Specimens.

For the avid photographer, the section on how to best produce good quality specimen images will be of particular value to the reader.

This work covers almost 100 mosquito species including those species more commonly encountered by we humans.

There is a brief Glossary included as well as drawings describing the general taxonomic features of both Adults and Immature Wrigglers.

This is a highly recommended book for any mosquito enthusiast.



A GUIDE TO MOSQUITOES OF AUSTRALIA

CAMERON WEBB, STEPHEN DOGGETT AND RICHARD RUSSELL



A Guide to the Mosquitoes of Australia.
 Cameron Webb, Stephen Doggett and Richard Russell.

Published by CSIRO Publishing

Glowing Blue Spider Is Among the Dozens of New Discoveries

A glowing blue spider has surfaced from one of Africa's least-studied landscapes.

Scientists surveying Angola's remote Lisima Plateau found dozens of species likely new to science, including a UV fluorescent crowned crab spider, eight undescribed dragonflies, three new grasshopper or katydid species, and around 60 moths and butterflies.

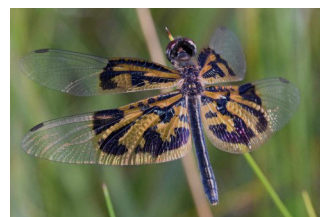
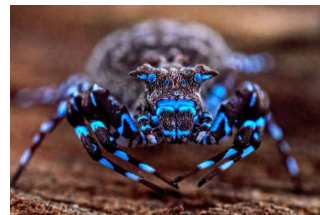
The plateau feeds the Congo, Okavango, Zambezi, and Cuanza river systems, making this discovery about more than rare insects.

The organization dedicated to studying and protecting Africa's freshwater wilderness announced the findings from the remote scientific expedition in the area — seen as one of Africa's last great biodiversity blank spots — in a news release obtained by PEOPLE on Wednesday, June 3.

The survey, called the Cassai Life Atlas, in the "almost entirely uncharted" area of Angola, uncovered "eight undescribed dragonfly species, three new grasshopper species, and approximately 60 moths and butterflies new to science,"

The Wilderness Project said in the release.

Forty-seven grasshopper, katydid, and cricket taxa were also uncovered, three of which were new to science. Specialists also found 103 dragonfly and damselfly species, including 34 previously unrecorded in the Lisima region. As a result of the survey, six species were added to Angola's national list, and eight are in the process of being formally described.



Massive seizure of 100,000 exotic Cockroaches

Pet businesses and reptile keepers have been put on notice after more than 100,000 live exotic cockroaches were seized by authorities in regional NSW.

The seizure this week from a breeder in Bathurst in the Central Tablelands was the largest confiscation of illegal exotic invertebrates in Australia, with an estimated value of up to \$200,000.

They included Dubia cockroaches and Madagascar Hissing cockroaches.

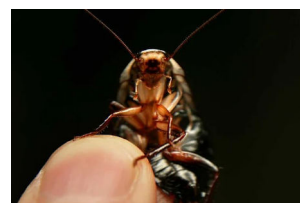
These species cannot be legally imported into Australia.

Under biosecurity laws, they also cannot be legally kept, bred, or sold, no matter how they were obtained.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW) warns exotic cockroaches have not been subject to an environmental risk assessment.

Their presence in Australia may spread disease and harm native wildlife and agriculture. "We're seeing illegal breeding and trading of exotic cockroaches and we're putting pet businesses and pet owners on notice," a DCCEEW spokesperson said. "If you are found to possess, breed or trade exotic cockroaches such as dubia cockroaches and Madagascar hissing cockroaches they will be seized and you could face penalties under federal law."

They will now be euthanised.



This Spider Hunts Prey 6x Its Size And Lives In Walls

Scientists have uncovered a tiny wall-dwelling spider named *Pikelinia floydmuraria*, inspired by Pink Floyd.

Despite its size, it's a fierce predator that hunts ants much larger than itself and helps reduce common urban pests like mosquitoes and flies. Its clever strategy of building webs near lights makes it especially effective. The discovery also raises new questions about its mysterious link to similar spiders in the Galápagos.

Although *P. floydmuraria* measures just 3 to 4 millimeters in length, it may play an important role in controlling pests in urban settings.

These synanthropic (urban-dwelling) spiders were found to feed mainly on Hymenoptera (such as ants), Diptera (flies and mosquitoes), and Coleoptera (beetles), based on dietary studies of both the new species and a related *Pikelinia* population in Ar-

menia, Colombia.

Scientists observed these spiders capturing ants up to six times larger than their own prosoma (body) size, demonstrating an impressive ability for such a small predator.



Pikelinia floydmuraria, male paratype.
Credit: Leonardo Delgado-Santa

An Expo Exhibitor Story - Entomology Queen

"Perhaps the butterfly is proof that you can go through a great deal of darkness and still become something beautiful."

This quote sits at the heart of my work as an insect artist based in regional Victoria, where I create carefully preserved specimens that celebrate the quiet, extraordinary beauty of the natural world. My journey began in 2019, not from a grand plan, but from a moment of stillness. After a serious car accident left me unable to work, I found myself searching for something to focus on and I stumbled across a butterfly specimen. That

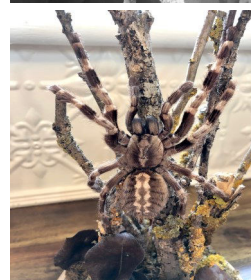
Moment was the catalyst for everything that has followed. What began as curiosity quickly became an obsession.

I taught myself the craft through research, practice, and patience, learning how to carefully rehydrate, position, and preserve each specimen. My early work started with butterflies and moths, and soon expanded into beetles, scorpions, tarantulas, and more, each one more fascinating than the last.

I'm endlessly captivated by insects. Beetles that shimmer like metallic foil, butterflies

painted in impossible colours, and grasshoppers that hide flashes of colour beneath rather benign exteriors, they still stop me in my tracks. They remind me that nature is far more remarkable than could ever be imagined.

A very lucky break led to my ongoing relationship with the Melbourne Museum. I've been a supplier of handcrafted specimens for their gift shop for the past three years, an opportunity that once felt unimaginable, and to this day I still feel the need to pinch myself to believe it's actually true.



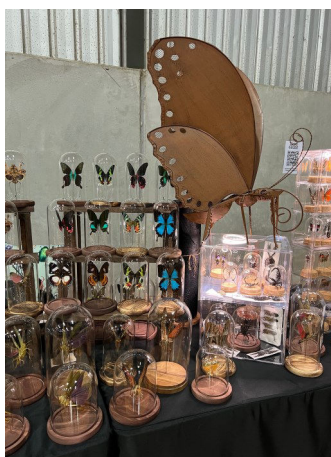
Cont...

There's also a deeper connection to this work for me. The transformation of a caterpillar into a butterfly mirrors my own journey. The deconstruction of the person I once was, to become the person standing before you today, can only be described as a complete metamorphosis.

This work became my anchor during a difficult period of recovery and continues to bring me a sense of calm, purpose, and wonder.

I'm now preparing to open a new gift shop and studio in [Avenel](#), my hometown, where I'll showcase my work alongside other artists, Australian-inspired products, and unusual plants.

At its heart, my work is, and has always been, driven by a simple feeling of awe.



The Entomology Queen - Carly Jenner with some of her wonderful works.

Institute Pioneers - Craig Guy

Craig Guy was involved with the Institute way back in the early 1990's when it originally began as the Insectarium of Victoria in Heathcote.

The Institute became very popular with school excursion groups and to help create an exciting excursion curriculum, Craig provided access to his extensive worming and recycling operations in Costerfield.

Spanning many acres in area, students of all ages were

introduced to the importance of

using invertebrates as recyclers and the display of hundreds of thousands of living worms thrilled our student groups for many years.

Craig would not only present his earthworm rearing methods but would also take students to the commercial sized yabby rearing operations along with yabby pate tastings!

Thanks Craig for helping our students over the years.



Mr Craig Guy providing another fascinating presentation outdoors on the importance of earthworm functions as recyclers.

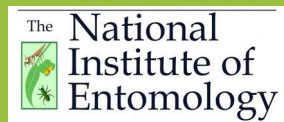
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admin@entoinsitute.org

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENTOMOLOGY — CONSERVATION.RESEARCH.TRAINING.

Members Committee Positions Now Open

Applications by Institute Members for The National Institute of Entomology Funding and Grants Committee are now open.

The role of the Committee will be to apply for grants and funding in order to assist the Institute towards Research, Equipment Acquisitions, Purchase of Entomological Storage Cabinets and Other Equipment to assist the Institute Training and Courses Programs.

To Apply, Please email our secretary on secretary@entoinsitute.org with your details, experience and the reason for your interest in serving on this important committee.

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 a non monetary donation to the National Institute of Entomology, please feel free to contact us on admin@entoinsitute.org
The National Institute of Entomology is a Registered Charity and donations are Tax Deductable.

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 DOWNLOAD PAGE](#)

