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NATIONAL INSTITUTE of ENTOMOLOGY NEWS



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Volume 1: Issue 3

AUGUST 2025

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Welcome to the August

Edition of the National Institute of Entomology NEWS. The Institute has been busy this month organizing the 2025 National Insect Expo to be held at the Woodend Buffalo Stadium on the 3-4-and 5th of October.

Many new exhibitors will be attending the expo for the first time with new and exciting displays for public exhibition at this years expo. We are also looking forward to seeing several 'Live' performances from Gone-Buggo specifically catered for children of all ages during the event.

We will also be featuring a very special puppetry presentation during the 3 day event based on 'The Flies' where the presenters will be greeting all visitors with some colorful and quirky insect characters.

This month has also kept us

busy with Courses and students including several students from South East Asia attending On-Line.

We are also covering a significant and disappointing outcome in this issue regarding our failed negotiations with the Freemasons of Victoria and the intended lease agreement fiasco with their organization. See page 2.

The Institute has recently been involved with enquiries with the Hume Council (Sunbury) regarding the possibility of utilizing one of their major buildings as a Not For Profit Research and Educational provider. Its early stages yet, but lets keep our fingers crossed as we are now in our 4th year of searching for a permanent home.

The institute has also purchased several additions to its research library this month and a listing of our library holdings is available on our website. See you all next month.

Dr Bert Candusio



Gearing up for the 2025 National Insect Expo

National Junior Bug Club Students on Display

The students of the National Junior Bug Club are thrilled to be displaying their years work and special projects at this year National Insect Expo.

Some students will be traveling all the way down from Queensland along with their parents in order to set-up their individual work displays on the Thursday evening ready for the public opening for the next 3 days of the

event.

Each student has been diligently working through various entomology subjects during 2025 and all are looking forward to displaying their works.

Lets all help support our future entomologists.



Freemasons Pull Plug on Lease

After 9 months of negotiations and 5 drafts of a lease agreement between our 2 organizations, the Freemasons of Victoria have decided to cancel the negotiations and sell the building and site.

This was a bitter disappointment to the Institute as the building would have been ideal for setting up our facility permanently.

The site had been vacant for 5 years and the Institute had offered to renovate the building and site at no costs to their group however, the Freemasons Properties Committee pulled the plug

just as leases were due to be signed by both groups.

The irony here is that the building was constructed in 1936 by volunteer labor from the Woodend Community and this was not taken into account with the selling decision.

Dr Bert Candusio, Chairman of the National Institute of Entomology said that the decision to capitalize the site reflected poorly on the Freemasons and perhaps this is reason as to why their organization had seen drastic reductions in their membership over the years.

'This is not a forward thinking decision and reflects poorly from a community viewpoint', he said.

The search for a permanent home for the National Institute of Entomology continues..



C.V.R.I.C Database Upgrade

The Central Victorian Regional Insect Collections Database was recently upgraded to include specimen location and collection mapping in order to pinpoint the exact location of specimen collection.

Other features added were the ability to add up to 9 images of the specimen for each record and to send the images to various image processing applications for further enhancement if needed.

The database currently

holds all records for the Formicidae (Ants) held in the C.V.R.I.C and soon, the remaining Hymenoptera (Bees, Wasps) will be entered. This group should be completed in the next 2 years.

Once the Hymenoptera are done, it is planned to begin with the Odonata (Dragonflies and Damselflies) and work our way down the Ordinal Groups over the next few years until the pinned component of the collections are completed.

Once done, the liquid preserved specimens numbering several hundred thousand will be assessed and slowly added into the C.V.R.I.C Collection for a total of 250,000 Specimens.

"The liquid preserved specimens numbering several hundred thousand will be assessed and slowly added to the C.V.R.I.C Collection for a total of 250,000 Specimens."



Part of the C.V.R.I.C dry pinned collection including the Formicidae (Ants) specimens already completed.

Website Servers Moved to Australia

Since 1993, the National Institute of Entomology websites and emails had been hosted by our close friend and associate Mr Derek Conn from Ozaccess.com.

Rick had supported us via hosting all our emails, websites and forums, often working in the background to assist in addressing any technical issues and giving his free time in supporting the Institutes on-line presence.

Rick has finally decided to retire and pass on his internet service to someone new and as a result, the Insti-

tutes servers were temporarily moved to the United States for several months.

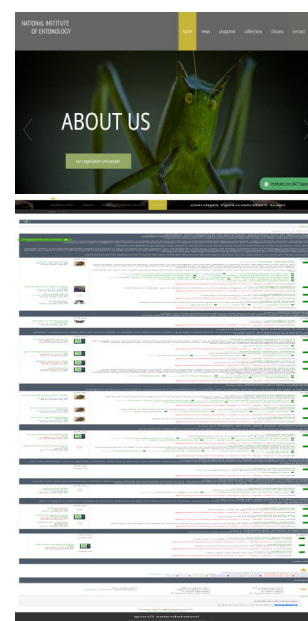
After searching for a suitable alternative for all our hosting needs, the Institute has appointed Australia-Hosting to act as our internet service provider and hosts.

Sam and the team at Australia-Hosting have done an amazing job in transferring all our websites, databases and forums pages to their servers here in Australia and all are up and running well.

entoinstitutione.org, insectex-

po.com.au and forums.cvruc.com.au including all email addresses are now sitting in their permanent new computer servers.

We wish Rick and Catriona all the best in their retirement and their trip around Australia.



Life Patron - Professor James (Jim) Bland

Professor Jim Bland was an associate of the original Insectarium of Victoria when the facility opened at Heathcote Victoria in September 1993.

Jim was a great support during the establishment of Australia's first Insectarium and helped with the setting up of our first Arachnid Database using a pioneering Apple 2E Computer!

Jim would often come and visit the centre and discuss the collections and their important significance for

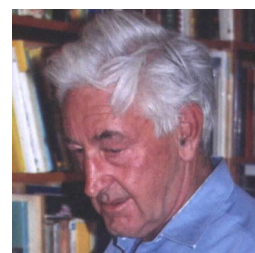
the region.

At the time, there was an increasing awareness of the unique Box Ironbark Forests of the area and Jim advocated for our collections to be used as a means to justify the creation of a series of National Parks in the region.

Jim would often inspire our volunteers and members with talks and discussions on the fauna and flora of the district and would often donate research books and other materials to the cen-

tre.

Although Jim passed away in 1998 after our move to Woodend, the network of National Parks for the Box-Ironbark was finally established as Jim would have wished. He is sorely missed.



Professor James (Jim) Bland (1921-1998)



The Insectarium of Victoria in Woodend after relocation from Heathcote.

N.I.O.E Insect Survey Van Operational

The National Institute of Entomology Survey Van has finally been made ready for Future Field Work, Demonstrations and Collecting Expeditions after a few modifications were completed recently.

It was planned that the vehicle should be as self sufficient as possible and allow for some form of sleeping accommodation to be incorporated with the vehicle during field trips. The decision was made to go with an add on Annex Type of design extension that would allow the vehicle to be expanded with extra sleeping or working room.

The van has also been equipped with entomological equipment storage for microscopes, collection nets both terrestrial and aquatic, specimen storage and GPS.

As well as the specimen collection gear, the unit is also carrying equipment for cooking meals, water for drinking and cooking and separate bedding for up to 4 adults. It also carries its own AC/DC Generator in order to provide power for up to 14 days.

Communications are provided in the form of a VHF, UHF, SSB, Upper and Lower Sideband Radio, Satellite

Phone and independent GPS Satellite Tracking. A beacon has also been fitted for when the unit carries specimens that may be a potential Bio-Hazard.

See the unit at this years Insect Expo.



The N.I.O.E van during its first survey trip to the Big River area South East of Jameson.

Australian Entomological Supplies Pty Ltd

Australian Entomological Supplies Pty Ltd is Australia's oldest and largest supplier of entomological equipment and has been providing this valuable service to researchers and students all over Australia for many years.

As a major supporter of the National Institute of Entomology, AES has provided a permanent discount of 10% on all its equipment and supplies to all our Enrolled Students and Institute Members.

They are able to supply everything from Insect Collecting nets, Field storage containers and vials, pinning boards and pins as well as a huge selection of other useful entomological gear.

Wayne and his team are always available to help with advice and assistance and their postage delivery service is first rate.

AES also supports the National Insect Expo every year with free gifts and giveaways to all young chil-

dren that attend.

Visit their website at entosupplies.com.au or email Wayne on:

sales@entosupplies.com.au for all your needs.



"Wayne and his team are more than happy to assist with all your entomological requirements"

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.

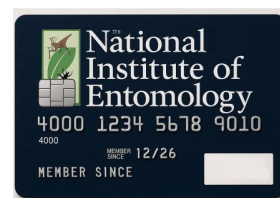
4: As a Member of the National Institute of Entomology, you receive our Monthly Newsletter keeping you updated on Institute News.

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.



Specimen Highlight

One of our intrepid students has collected an unusual example of the relatively little known ant genus *Pseudoneoponera*.

This genera of ants is comprised of less than 20 species and ranges from India to Australia. The genus is notable for the unusual foamy defensive secretions its workers exude from the sting, for its small colonies, and for its unusual social systems, including the frequent occurrence of gamergates.

Workers of *Pseudoneoponera* are distinguished from other ponerine ants by their combination of robust build, coarse sculpturing, shaggy pilosity, obsolete metanotal groove, a nodiform petiole which is semi-

circular in dorsal view and often has a denticulate posterodorsal margin, longitudinally striate tergite A3 (rarely otherwise sculptured), and strong gastral constriction between A3 and A4.

Pseudoneoponera most closely resembles *Bothroponera* and *Phrynoponera*, and to a lesser extent *Ectomomyrmex*, but these genera lack the shaggy pilosity, semicircular denticulate petiole, and longitudinally striate tergite A3 of *Pseudoneoponera*, and *Pseudoneoponera* lacks the spinose propodeum (except *Pseudoneoponera bispinosa*), five-spined petiolar node, and unconstricted gaster of *Phrynoponera*, and the small eyes, angular sides of the head, divided mesopleuron

(except in a few species), and weakly constricted gaster of *Ectomomyrmex*.



Volunteer of the Month

Ms Aimee Leatham is a Board Member and the Central Victorian Regional Insect Collections Media Manager.

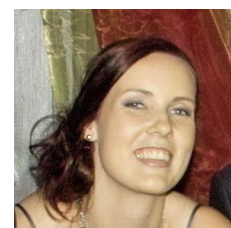
She is responsible for all the Institutes websites and Media News Releases.

She is also our News Liaison Officer responsible for all Media requests. Aimee holds a Double Major Degree in Applied Science - Biomedical and Environmental Science La Trobe University and also holds Diplomas in Psychology and

Ornithology.

She also has qualifications in Workplace Safety and Health, Sustainable Development and Captive Animal Management.

In 2013, she worked on the Lord Howe Island Stick Insect captive breeding program in order to help save this species from extinction.



Research News

The Institute is currently undertaking several research projects involving both the insect and arachnid sections of the collections.

The short term aims include the documentation the Hymenoptera (Ants and Wasps) as well as cataloging the ant-mimicking spiders: Zodariidae (Ant-eating spiders).

Many species of Australian Zodariidae have been described in recent years by Dr Barbara Main and others. Yet there are many still undescribed species in Central Victoria.

This will involve taxonomic

work and description of these currently undescribed species and publishing them in taxonomic journals and/or collaborating with other entomologists/arachnologists who are working on these groups to have them described.

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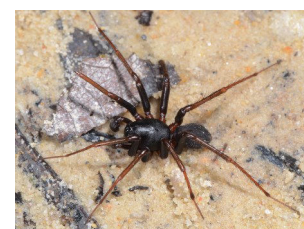
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The Zodariidae or Ant Mimicking Spiders.

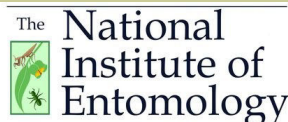
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CONSERVATION.RESEARCH.TRAINING.

The National Institute of Entomology provides a variety of specialized services to assist Primary Producers, Conservation Organisations 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 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](#)

