

HISTORY OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETIES OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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INTRODUCTION

The history of entomological societies in NSW from the mid-20th century is fraught with conspiracy, take-over and scission. The relationship with entomological societies in other states has been one of suspicion and competition. The attitude of the NSW society to formation of a national body was one of paranoia and non-cooperation, since their own model seemed unlikely to be chosen, and the demon Entomological Society of Queensland was going to get its own wicked way. Since the late 1940s, there have been at least five groupings of entomologists based in Sydney. Some of them have changed their names, without changing their membership. Some of them have published circulars and journals under multiple names. Some have split off from existing societies, with varying degrees of goodwill. The history of our current Entomological Society of New South Wales (EntSocNSW3) cannot be separated from those of other societies dealing with insects, and this paper, celebrating the 70th anniversary of EntSocNSW3, will include brief histories of those others. The first Entomological Society of NSW (EntSocNSW1), founded by William Macleay in 1861, was active until 1873 (Marks and Mackerras 1971). Its history is not part of this paper. Below is a timeline which lists the societies, their dates, their name changes, and their publications.

The history has been based mainly on the circulars and other communications of the various societies, so has the benefit of being "in their own words". We thank Dr Max Moulds for making available his comprehensive collection of printed circulars, some of them obtained from Barry Salkild. Without them, this work would not have been possible.

Minute books are available for some of the societies, some of the time, but have not been consulted during this study. The work is deliberately not written in the formal style of a scientific paper or of a history paper, but it attempts to recapture the feeling of the times, the dynamics of the societies and personalities of some of the people involved. Of course, it has not been possible to acknowledge every individual who has contributed to the Society's activities, or every one of the hundreds of speakers. The Society bears a debt of gratitude to all of them.

TIMELINE

This section provides the dates, names and name changes of the entomological societies active in NSW to the present, and the abbreviations of their names used in the rest of the paper.

1861 Entomological Society of New South Wales (EntSocNSW1). Founded by William Macleay.

1873 EntSocNSW1 closed. Succeeded by Linnean Society of NSW, also founded by Macleay.

1921 Royal Zoological Society of NSW Entomological Section (RZSNSWES1) founded by G.A. Waterhouse.

1930 RZSNSWES1 closed.

1947 Australian branch of the British Amateur Entomologists' Society (AES AB) founded by K.D. Fairey. Published irregular bulletins.

1949 AES AB commenced publication of *The Australasian Entomologist*.

1952 AES AB changed its name to the Entomological Society of New South Wales (EntSocNSW2). Published *The Australian Entomologist*.

1952 C.E. Chadwick proposed a separate society.

1953 The Society of Entomologists, Sydney (SES) established. It was biased towards professional entomologists but invited all.

1955 EntSocNSW2 closed.

1957 RZSNSWES re-emerged (RZSNSWES2). Some members of EntSocNSW2 moved to RZSNSWES2.

1963 SES changed its name to the Entomological Society of Australia (N.S.W.) (ESANSW).

1964 ESANSW commenced publication of the *Journal of the Entomological Society of Australia (NSW)*.

1965 Australian Entomological Society (AES) established.

1979 Chadwick and supporters left ESANSW and joined RZSNSWES2.

1980 The name of ESANSW changed to the Entomological Society of NSW (EntSocNSW3).

1989 Chadwick and supporters left RZSNSWES2, which closed, and formed the Society for Insect Studies (SFIS).

2024 AES, Linnean Society of NSW, SFIS and EntSocNSW3 continuing.

THE AMATEUR ENTOMOLOGISTS' SOCIETY

In 1947, young moth enthusiast K.D. (Ken) Fairey was a member of the British Amateur Entomologists' Society (confusingly known as AES) and requested help from the society to set up an Australian branch. The AES promised support, and gave approval for re-using material published in its own bulletins. They also encouraged British members to send the names of Australians interested in insects to Fairey.¹ Fairey was just out of his teens. He had completed the Leaving Certificate at Goulburn High School in 1945 (commuting by train from Yass? boarding in Goulburn?) but his results did not qualify him for matriculation. He was disadvantaged by the peripatetic career of his father, a Presbyterian minister, taking the family to three states and seven towns during Ken's school years, and by the poor health that pursued him throughout his life. An obvious preference for moths over maths might have been another problem.

How did Ken Fairey build up membership in the new Amateur Entomologists' Society, Australian Branch (AES AB)? In 1947 his family had moved to Charlestown, a southern suburb of Newcastle. Hence Ken had to build up a new contact group with shared interests. He does not seem to have advertised in newspapers, and the other NSW members of the (British) AES were A. F. O'Farrell in Armidale, later to become professor of Zoology at the University of New England, and C.H.L. Kennard in Sydney, then aged only about 12. Colin Kennard later became a professor in the University of Queensland with a very lengthy list of publications on crystallography. His work included crystal structures of insecticides and occasional structures of plant secretions.

The wide geographic separation of these three did not facilitate the formation of a society, and even the established British society with 1000 members was having trouble finding members willing to take on practical roles. A small number of new members probably came from suggestions from the British AES members, but they were mainly interstate. The society's life depended on Ken Fairey, who, as "editor and organizer", prepared and circulated irregular bulletins to the membership (AES AB Vol. 1 No. 1 July 1947 - No. 23 Jan.-Feb 1951). In the first issue, he announced that the society was a reality, with "mostly a few friends" as members, and that its aim was largely to help young collectors. He apologised for the delay in communicating caused by prolonged illness. The early bulletins were mainly about collecting and killing methods, not infrequently with material reproduced from the British society's publications.

Ironically, a further relocation for his father brought the family to Sydney, initially in Mascot and later in Merrylands. In Sydney there were more opportunities for Ken to access jobs in entomological settings and to meet other entomologists, and he was appointed as a laboratory assistant with the Research Division of the Forestry Commission. Despite his difficult start, Ken was able to build a career related to his passion via later qualifications from Sydney Technical College, a BSc from the University of NSW, and in the early 1980s, an MSc from Macquarie University. He became a research entomologist, and later, the curator of the invertebrate collection of the NSW Forestry Commission.² While the family was living in Merrylands, Ken planted the back yard as an impressive forest.³

By October 1947, membership had risen to 10. Bulletin No. 6 was held up by shortage of paper, one of many things in short supply in the post-war years, but KDF announced his ambition to have "every entomologist in the Commonwealth" as members. He complained that existing members were not helping him increase membership by encouraging their friends to join. The society's main activity was providing practical advice to young collectors. In Bulletin No. 7, Jan.-Feb 1948, the beginnings of a structure emerged: Miss Chugg (in Melbourne) was appointed as secretary and Colin Kennard as Honorary Address Indexer. In the next, Colin Kennard added Youth Secretary to his portfolio, and M. Scott Upton became Honorary Insect Migration Secretary. Upton went on to a career at CSIRO Division of Entomology. In April, a piece with the macabre title "Is it dead yet?" was republished from a 1939 issue of the British society's bulletin. We now know that it's dead when the brilliance goes out of its eyes, it being a moth.

¹ Cooper, B.A. (1948). *Bulletin of the Amateur Entomologists' Society*, **89** (1):138

² Eulogy by Len Willan (pers. comm.)

³ Don Sands (pers. comm.)

By May they had 14 subscribing members. Other natural history groups and publications spread word of AES AB but geographic scattering of the membership made inclusive meetings and field trips impossible. In August 1948 an Advisory Panel was introduced to help with identifications. The September-October bulletin announced the appointment of Mr D.N. Kennard as Honorary Treasurer. He would have been about 16 at the time and was the older brother of Colin Kennard. Desmond Kennard was to have a significant career in management of institutions such as the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney Heritage Fleet, Australian Maritime Museum, Sovereign Hill Museum and the Australian Bicentennial Exhibition. He received an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in 2015.

It seems the Society already had a wider reach than expected. Leslie Mosse-Robinson, a former paymaster in both the Royal Navy and Royal Australian Navy,⁴ Narara citrus-grower and keen butterfly collector, joined in June 1948 and was elected soon after as secretary. In 1950 he became president. His presence would have given the infant group mature leadership and potentially wider membership, but sadly, he was not with them for long enough. Following his death in 1954 his 50000-strong butterfly collection went to the Australian National Insect Collection.

1949 saw a change in the society's publications, with a "journal" supplementing the irregular Bulletins. *The Australasian Entomologist* had 8 pages in each edition and a cardboard wrap around cover. This replaced the bulletins for the time being, with the first issue dated January 1949. The contents of its eight pages were two notes and Part 1 of a longer article by Upton about insect migration. Volume 1 (ii) was dated April 1949, pages 9-18, with a continuation of Upton's article. There were also two notes, one on a light trap design and the other on mould prevention on specimens. The third and last (Volume 1, (iii), pages 21-36) was dated December 1951 and contained the final part of Upton's article. In the meantime, the Bulletins had returned. In Bulletin No. 15 (Jan.-Feb. 1950), a list of names and addresses of the members was published as "A Directory of Australasian Entomologists". Was permission asked, or was privacy less valued back then? There were 27 names on the list and only eight people were based in or near Sydney, with others as far afield as Western Australia (Barbara York, then a student, later to be an expert arachnologist), Queensland and even England. One name stood out: Chadwick, C.E., C/o Entomology Section, Dept of Agriculture, Farrar Place, Sydney. He seems not to have contributed anything to the Society in terms of written contributions or management roles, but his name will recur frequently in this history.

Don Sands (pers. comm.) noted another pathway into membership of the society. His aunt, Lucy Singleton, took him to meetings of the Naturalists' Society of NSW when he was young. She was a botanist and she and Don's mother got to know Nancy B. Adams, general assistant in Entomology at the Australian Museum. Through her, Don and other young collectors gained access to the entomologists on the Museum staff and KC McKeown was especially helpful in identifying their specimens from about 1947. Emil Zeck, renowned biological illustrator, was president of the Naturalists' Society for many years and he gave great encouragement to the young collectors and suggested that they join Ken Fairey's group.

Len Willan told of his introduction to the Museum people by Bruno Lüddemann, a butterfly and beetle collector, and through them learned of Ken Fairey's group. Len remembers his first meeting with Ken Fairey, in 1950. Len was then a young boy of 14, and KDF arranged to meet him on Hornsby Station for a field trip to Cowan. The clue to recognition: "I will be wearing a brown tie". The butterfly net was an even better clue. Gone are the days of ties on field trips. The paperwork was easier then. No permits required. No Child Safety clearance required either.

Bulletin 16 (March-April, 1950) foreshadowed the commencement of a new journal, to be known as *The Australian Entomologist*, and proposed the publication of the first two parts in the same year, an ambitious objective. At a Special General Meeting in April 1950, the Society elected a full council, with Mosse-Robinson as president, J.C. Keast as secretary, D.N. Kennard as treasurer, B.W. Salkilld as publicity officer and five other councillors. Only four council members lived in the Sydney area. Keast at the time was Principal Veterinary Research Officer at Glenfield, but a keen moth collector in his spare time: his collection is now in ANIC. Salkilld was a social worker and beetle collector. In later life he was a dealer in second-hand scientific equipment.⁵

⁴ According to an obituary (*The Scone Advocate*, 3 Sep 1954 p.1) Mosse-Robinson was born in Surrey, England, and entered the Royal Navy, rising to Paymaster Lieutenant Commander. He transferred to the RAN before WW I with a similar position and later was at the RAN College at Jervis Bay till retirement in 1923.

⁵ MS Moulds, pers. comm.

In mid-1950 the Society commenced monthly meetings and field trips in Sydney. The first meeting was held at the YMCA in July with eight members present. Discouragingly, only four were present at the next meeting, held at Science House, but the experiment was deemed successful enough to book a meeting room for monthly meetings for the next year.

The meetings continued to be held on the first Wednesday of each month. In the last Bulletin issued (Vol 1, 23, Jan-Feb 1951), KDF announced that there would be no journal or bulletin in 1952 as he would not be able to do it, but he would be pleased if someone else stepped forward. A single sheet News and Notes Sheet would be issued instead.

A few words are due on Ken Fairey's personality. Although quietly spoken, he had a mischievous sense of humour, and his enthusiasm for entomological topics was infectious to all who worked with him. He had a deep love of music, especially jazz, and was involved in the Bush Music Club. A sound system that he had designed and built is in the Powerhouse Museum Collection.⁶ One of his other passions was ceramics, and we remember him speaking of his enthusiasm for Japanese pottery.

For the young members, field trips were the highlights of the society's calendar, although they did also attend evening meetings in the city. Don Sands recounted two examples of field trips. Ken Fairey had bought a Model A Ford. It would go anywhere, up bush tracks, through mud and even on the road. One midnight collecting effort with a light sheet on the Berowra hilltop was disrupted by the arrival of three police cars with lights and sirens. They were sure that the only people who would be doing anything at midnight in a remote location must be up to no good - stripping cars for example. On another occasion, Sands and Willan caught a train leaving Central at midnight. They got off at Bell in the dark and proceeded to walk to the top of Mt Wilson where they camped for a few days collecting moths. Sands was recently awarded a DSc for his entomological publications, covering a wide range of applied problems, especially in biocontrol. Willan, a master watchmaker, still references Australian moths in his email address and is one of the primary drivers of the CSIRO website Australian Moths Online. He is an Honorary Life Member of the society Moths and Butterflies of Australasia (MABA), founded in 2021.

In 1952 the society changed its name to the Entomological Society of New South Wales (EntSocNSW2). A report from a surprising source, *The Townsville Daily Bulletin* (August 1953) gave information on the society. It stated that the Australian Branch of the (British) AES had been meeting in Sydney since March 1949 and that it published a monthly bulletin, *Entomological Notes and News*, and reached out to people interested in insects in any way, from butterfly collectors to pest controllers.⁷ The information was perhaps passed to the newspaper by member J.G. Brooks, whose postal address was in Cairns. He was a dentist and a keen coleopterist, and had been a member of the Entomological Society of Queensland since 1930.⁸

There were no publications in 1952 (Fairey was ill) but in 1953 the society reappeared under a new name and became the Entomological Society of NSW (same name as the 19th century society) and with a new name for its journal, *The Australian Entomologist*, (Vol. 1, No. 1, August 1953, to Vol. 1 No. 5, May 1955).⁹ *The Townsville Daily Bulletin* gave details of the first issue and its contents. Trove's ocr version of this report describes the newsletter as a very modest issue "constating of four pagaa and a cow"¹⁰ and notes by A.E. Smith, D.P. Sands, B. H. Finch, B. W. Salkilld and K. Fairey. Mr B.W. Salkilld was by then the president, and the editorial panel was made up of Salkilld, (Mrs) Harford and Len Willan. In his inaugural message, Salkilld explained with regret that Ken Fairey's health had forced him to cut back on his activities and he was unable to continue as editor. The Editorial Panel wrote that "the past was a gloomy affair" with conflict among members and clashes of personalities resulting in various administrative problems and loss of members. Don Sands, a young member at the time, recalled that there was friction between Chadwick and Fairey, and that the CSIRO people (Geoff Snowball, Garth Lukins) did not want to

⁶ The Museum is reorganising its collection database and no object number or details are available at present.

⁷ <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/62492752>, *Townsville Daily Bulletin*, Sat 22 Aug 1953 Page 5.

⁸ E.B.Britton (1975). *News Bulletin of the Australian Entomological Society* 11:75-79

⁹ Chadwick later stated that this was a new society with members from the AES AB but independent of it. This seems to be incorrect, as Salkilld (president in 1953) mentions survival and "ups and downs", of "our society", and mentions Fairey's ill-health. A continuing society is strongly indicated.

¹⁰ Read "consisting of four pages and a cover". *Townsville Daily Bulletin* Sat 14 Aug 1954, p.5

be involved in this, perceiving it as a disagreement between the Forestry members (Fairey, Moore) and Agriculture people (Chadwick, Shanahan) (Sands, pers. comm.). Phil Hadlington (Forestry) became part of the Chadwick faction. Snowball had advised the young people not to involve themselves in the factional war. A particular point at issue was the focus on young amateurs in the society - Chadwick wanted to build up a society of professionals and leave the amateurs to their own devices. This was ironical in the light of future events. No minutes of meetings were published at any stage, so the details of the disaster that had befallen the society can only be obtained from other sources, especially the Circulars of the Society of Entomologists, Sydney (SES) (see below) and personal recollections of former members.

THE END OF ENTSOCNSW2

EntSocNSW2 continued with the *Australian Entomologist* until 1955. In September 1953 it published a pleasant account of a collecting trip to Barrington Tops (L.S. Willan), and an urgent request from the Chief of the Division of Wood Technology for members to collect and provide data on the distribution of the phasmid *Podacanthus wilkonsoni*, in anticipation of a plague. It usually listed the councillors. In 1954, the officers of the society were Salkilld, President, Mosse-Robinson (who died later in the year) Vice President, D.P. Sands, Secretary, I. Morhaus, Treasurer, and the remainder made up of Willan, Librarian, and Councillors Miss Vera Levitt, whose favourite invertebrates were spiders, including funnel webs¹¹, and Mrs Harford, a member of the Editorial Panel. The society had clearly attracted a group of very bright young people to its membership during the early years, with many continuing to successful careers in entomology or other areas of science.

In February 1955 the AGM expressed concern about the Society's future. In the March issue of the *Australian Entomologist*, acting Honorary Editor J.W. Nash urged members to take a more active part in the Society's affairs, in terms of writing, attending meetings and field trips and recruiting members. And paying their subscriptions. The same issue contained a news story about a funnel web spider killing a tiger in Taronga Zoo. (If correct, this is surprising, as few animals besides humans are badly affected by funnel web venom, to the extent that it was very difficult to establish an animal model for testing anti-venoms etc). By the April issue, the new council consisted of Nash, President, Salkilld, Vice President, Ray, Secretary, no Treasurer. The rest of the issue was taken up with a posthumously published list of butterflies collected by Mosse-Robinson. In May 1955, Vol. 1, No. 5 appeared. It included the same solicitations for contributions from members as had been in just about every issue of the three different vehicles. Vera Levitt wrote two and a half pages on leaf-curling spiders. Don Sands wrote nearly three on blues he had seen near his home. (The pages, by the way, are very small at 14 cm by 21.5 cm). An unnamed member, perhaps the editor, wrote about ways of advancing entomology in Australia, proposing close liaison of the different existing societies and implying that a federation of societies was a good model. Other sensible suggestions were included. And then: nothing. No announcement of closure. No more publications. No farewell to members. Nothing. Len Willan explained the decline as partly caused by a drifting away of his age group as they were studying, starting businesses and even setting up house.

According to Marks and Mackerras (1972), some members moved to the Entomological Section of the Royal Zoological Society of NSW when it re-started in 1957, and an unsuccessful attempt was made to start the original society again in 1959. Vera Levitt was one of the former members involved in this attempt.

THE FIRST SCHISM THE SOCIETY OF ENTOMOLOGISTS, SYDNEY

In late 1952, C.E. (Clarry) Chadwick called a meeting to discuss the formation of a new society. The eight people present¹² agreed to go ahead and appointed as temporary officers Chadwick (President), Turner (Secretary) and

¹¹ Levitt married M. H. Gregg, a member of RZS and SES, in 1960. She described a new species of mouse spider from the Northern Territory, *Missulena pruinosus* Levitt-Gregg 1966 and was later an honorary associate of the Australian Museum. The funnel web spider *Hadronyche levittgreggae* Gray 2010 was named for her.

¹² These are listed in SES Circular 119: 4, 1962. Additional to the temporary office holders were Turner's wife and daughter, Miss M. Richards, Hardy and Hasemer. G.H. Hardy, as early as 1923, had supported the concept of a national entomological society, but his group decided that it was preferable at that time to form a Queensland society.

Hadlington (Treasurer). Chadwick wrote to everyone he knew to encourage them to attend the inaugural meeting. A copy of the letter addressed to Miss K.M.I. English is included in the bound copies of circulars of the society¹³. The letter said that "there was sufficient interest in an entomological society of good standard and run on sound lines" (an obvious swipe at EntSocNSW2) and it proposed that the main activity would be to have invited speakers at each meeting. The society set out to appeal to people interested in any aspect of entomology, as had EntSocNSW2. Looking back on the origins of the Society 25 years later, Chadwick, in his presidential address, said: "In 1952 the second Entomological Society of NSW was formed, largely from members of the amateur group, but independently of it.¹³ One feature of this amateur society was that its young and inexperienced members had a distaste for professional entomologists. This characteristic, and the general repute of the society, did not endear it to a few of its members and to some non-members who were convinced that the support of professional entomologists was essential if an enduring and worthwhile society was to be formed."¹⁴ It is not known how this distaste was demonstrated: we have shown already that the despised amateurs were more than ready to learn from sympathetic professionals, and many of them were destined for successful careers in entomology whether as "amateurs" or professionals. What makes someone a professional entomologist anyway? Chadwick added that only four or five of the original group (KDF's group) joined the new society.

On 20 February 1953 the first meeting of the new society was held. Ninety-five members had already been recruited and 52 turned up at the meeting. The name of the new society was to be The Society of Entomologists, Sydney.¹⁵ Officers were elected: C.E. Chadwick, President, E.A. Atkinson, Vice President, N. Turner, Secretary, P. Hadlington, Treasurer, plus three non-executive members. The names of Foundation members were listed in the minutes. Chadwick was the only person from the list of March 1950 to appear as a foundation member of the new society, but new members had joined EntSocNSW2 since the 1950 list and some were to add themselves to SES. The new society's stated *raison d'être* was much the same as that of EntSocNSW2 with less emphasis on young beginners, and it was meeting in the same city and on the same night as the older society (and in the same building, Science House).

No first names, just initials. Titles for women. Some names among the foundation members that would be familiar to many included L. Barton-Brown, M. Casimir, Miss K.M. English, G.H. Hardy, P. Hely, A.K. O'Gower, G.J. Shanahan, A.R. Woodhill, E.H. Zeck, T. Greaves, S.J. Paramanov, E.F. Riek, E.J. Reye, R.V. Southcott and student member John Balderson. In April, A.J. Flick¹⁶ joined the society. G.F. Snowball (CSIRO) joined in August. A report provided later by Chadwick in the *Victorian Naturalist* detailed the aims and officers of the Society.¹⁷ The society jogged along successfully through the 1950s, with meetings at 7.30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month except January and February at Science House in Gloucester Street. Attendance varied from fewer than 10 to 60, with an annual average usually in the 20s. Peak numbers were drawn by topics in applied entomology. The meetings were very formal, and started with reading the minutes from the previous month's meeting, followed by members' exhibits and notes. Then the speaker. The speakers generally provided the society with the full text or at least a summary of their lecture - or, at some stages, the lectures were transcribed longhand by the secretary and friends from tapes made at the meeting. They were typed out with impressive accuracy by member Beverley Jones and sent to each member. As the lectures sometimes ran to eight closely-typed foolscap pages, plus the other business matters of the meeting, the production and distribution of the Circular was not a trivial task. Occasionally this work was acknowledged in the annual report. Most of the speakers were well-known local or visiting entomologists, including some from the USA, and their topics were varied and professionally presented. The speaker in December 1955 was Dr Mary Fielding, a young woman recently arrived from England to take up a position in CSIRO in Canberra. We knew her later as Mary Carver, expert on aphids and their parasitoids.

¹³ This contention is not supported by the publications of EntSocNSW2. See above.

¹⁴ Entomological Society of Australia (NSW), Circular 283, April 1978.

¹⁵ The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954) Wed 25 Feb 1953 Page 2.

¹⁶ "How can you be sure there are no borers in the floor, white ants in the door, silverfish galore? Get the Flick man, that's your answer, remember one Flick, and they're gone." Radio advertising jingle, ca 1950s.

¹⁷ Chadwick, C.E. (1953). A new scientific society. *Victorian Naturalist* **70**:116. This is the Journal of the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria, with the first volume published in the mid-1860s. Obtainable online through the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Chadwick was a member of the society.

The annual report for 1955 showed a decline in total membership as resignations and unfinancial members exceeded new memberships, but meetings continued to attract reasonable audiences, with an average of 20. The family-friendly field excursions were well attended. In 1957 the secretary was Fred'k P. Crook (*sic*), who had an engagingly informal style of writing the circular. There was no mention of the position of "Circular Editor",¹⁸ later held with distinction by Murray Fletcher among others. The Society announced that it would be taping lectures for loan to members unable to attend meetings. On more than one occasion it published notices from commercial entities trading internationally in butterfly specimens, with interests in selling overseas species and buying Australian native ones. Apparently members were entitled to discounts on various retail products. At the end of every issue of the circular was a paragraph headed "Reproduction". For some reason DFH never got used to this and always expected some interesting content. But in fact it was just about copyright.

At the August meeting, the speaker was Keith Campbell, ex-Spitfire pilot,¹⁹ a member and frequent Council member of the society from its beginnings until his death. In the typical formal style of the society at that time, he was recorded as "Mr. K.G. Campbell, D. F. C., B. Sc. For., Dip. For."

The meetings always included a section for Notes and Exhibits. One stood out above the usual insects: a photo of the Zoology II and III classes at Sydney University in 1913, shown by Miss Irwin-Smith and including herself, Miss KMI English, George Clark, Anthony Musgrave (best known for his *Bibliography of Australian Entomology*)²⁰, RJ Tillyard (first Chief of Entomology in CSIR),²¹ SJ Johnson,²² C. Hamblin and E. Flynn. DFH remembers meeting Miss English some 50 years later, working in the Macleay Museum on tabanids.

Meetings were initially in Science House, sometimes in the Shell Theatre, sometimes in the Australian Museum, and sometimes the CENE²³ rooms. In 1963, a special meeting was held in St Phillip's Church Hall.

Chadwick retained the position of president until the 1961 meeting, when it was taken by K.E.W. Salter,²⁴ a Sydney University academic with a penchant for thynnid wasps. Salter had earlier been curator of the Macleay Museum and had joined SES in 1958.²⁵ Could this change in the presidency have been a gentlemen's agreement, or was it perceived by the membership that a change was due? Salter was re-elected in 1962, with Courtenay Smithers, Curator of Insects, Australian Museum, as Vice President, and Chadwick a council member. Table 1 provides a list of the presidents of the Society.

Salter had the misfortune of a fire in his office in the Zoology Department, and lost much of his research and teaching material. One of his students recalls that, because of this, he felt unable to start his invertebrate zoology course with the usual Protozoa and leapt straight into the sponges.²⁶

Other executive positions experienced some churn during the 1950s. Sometimes there was an obvious reason - one secretary resigned because of his wife's ill-health, another presumably because he had been moved to Leeton. The first secretary (Turner) and his wife both resigned from Council within a few months of election. There were eight treasurers in the first ten years.

¹⁸ See later. The lack of a formal position was used to discredit the then editor by the president.

¹⁹ Keith Campbell's remarkable life including his reconnaissance missions over war-time Germany was recorded and is available at <https://australiansatwarfilmarchive.unsw.edu.au/archive/htmlTranscript/1514>. See also <https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/205451861> for a photo of Keith in his flying days.

²⁰ See <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/musgrave-anthony-7716> (accessed 18 Apr 2024).

²¹ <https://csiropedia.csiro.au/Tillyard-Robert-John/> (accessed 18 Apr 2024).

²² Probably SJ Johnston, lecturer in Zoology and successor to Haswell as professor of Zoology.

²³ Church of England National Emergency Fund, based at St Andrew's Cathedral

²⁴ Keith Eric Wellesley Salter (1908-1969). *Journal of the Entomological Society of Australia (N.S.W.)*, **8**: 41-42

²⁵ *Circular of the SES*(1960) **96**: p. 46 (list of members with addresses and interests).

²⁶ N.N.Tait, pers. comm. Noel Tait had been taken to a meeting of SES by Salter and appears in the circular simply as "Mr Tait". He was not inspired to go again, but he became an academic at Macquarie University and taught Invertebrate Zoology, year about with DFH. By then the Protozoa had been removed to a separate Kingdom. Noel is well-known for his work on Onychophora.

Field excursions for collecting insects were instituted from 1955 and became so popular that it was proposed in 1957 to hold them monthly. Those were the days when a crowd of people could walk into a national park and catch and kill anything with six legs (but not pick the wildflowers). Can anyone imagine getting permits to do it now?

The society published a list of members at the end of 1959. Forty foundation members were still listed, indicating that about 55 had left the society, but the numbers remained strong at 108. The Society continued on its established pattern of meetings with speakers, show and tell, excursions, December social events, and a thorough account of all these activities in circulars was typed on foolscap on manual typewriters and collated and posted to all members.

The story of this society will be continued below.

C. E. Chadwick (1909-2004)

Since Clarence Earl Chadwick²⁷ was associated with all the various 20th century entomological societies in NSW and founded several of them, he deserves his own section. *General and Applied Entomology* published an obituary (with permission from the Society for Insect Studies)²⁸ providing an outline of his life and achievements. It does contain errors and some are corrected in the current paper. In brief, Chadwick was born in 1909 in northern NSW (the birth was registered in Murwillumbah), matriculated from Lismore High School and proceeded to the University of Sydney where he graduated with a BSc in 1932. He was one of AJ Nicholson's last students before Nicholson moved to CSIR.²⁹ He moved into the teaching profession, spending some time in the Broken Hill area, and his teaching included primary, secondary and technical college levels. Teaching was a reserved occupation so he was not required to enlist for service in the Second World War. Moving to Wollongong in 1945, he founded the Illawarra Natural History Society.

In 1947 he was appointed as the systematic entomologist for the Department of Agriculture's insect collection, with the task of expanding and maintaining it as well as answering queries from the public. He was based initially in the city (Department of Agriculture Building, Farrer Place) but moved to Rydalmere in 1960 where he worked until his retirement in 1974. After retirement, he still visited the collection, and it seems that he regarded it as his personal property. The new curator at Rydalmere, Eberhard Schicha, was obliged to put restrictions on his attendance, facilities and activities.³⁰ Chadwick became an honorary at the Australian Museum.

Chadwick had a complex relationship with the various 20th century entomological groups, as will emerge in the course of this history. The first of these were AES-AB and The Society of Entomologists, Sydney (SES), as we have seen above. His obituary includes a list of over 100 publications, but many were unrefereed notes in circulars of the various entomological societies he successively founded. He put a great deal of time and effort into the societies, but this was overshadowed by his apparent need to be the only voice in the affairs of each of them and his sometimes fractious relationships with their members.

To end on a more positive note, Chadwick left money to the Australian Museum which has been used, as he wished, to provide new storage cabinets for the collection. Additional funds were invested to provide an annual post-doctoral fellowship in Biodiversity, to be held at the Museum.³¹

A PARALLEL SOCIETY - THE ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NSW ENTOMOLOGY SECTION

This group, a resurrection of RZSNSW1, ran from 1957 to 1989, and seemed to provide a repository for people disaffected with SES (and its continuation under other names), although there were always some people who were

²⁷ He spelt the abbreviation of his first name "Clarry" and we have used this spelling except when quoting directly from written material by others. His first name is sometimes recorded in publications of the various societies as "Claridge". This is perhaps a mis-hearing of "Clarence."

²⁸ (No author) (2005). *General and Applied Entomology* 34:1-6.

²⁹ *Circular of RZSNSWES* (1986) 43: 15.

³⁰ Fletcher, pers. comm.

³¹ <https://australian.museum/get-involved/join/foundation/story-of-a-bequest-clarence-e-chadwick/>

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www.entsocnsw.org.au

simultaneously happy members of both. It seems better to follow its history in full here rather than attempt to interleave it with the history of SES etc. This inevitably results, however, in references to events, to be described later, that happened during the history of other societies (see below).

The Entomological Section of the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales was established in October 1921 by lepidopterist G. A. Waterhouse,³² who was chairman, with G.M. Goldfinch³³ secretary. The section was initially successful, meetings being held every second month and later every month. Many members were also members of the Linnean Society of NSW, a more general natural history society founded by Sir William Macleay after the cessation of EntSocNSW1 (see above). The section was discontinued after 1930 because of falling membership and attendance. It was re-established in 1957, apparently at the instigation of marine biologist Elizabeth Pope of the Australian Museum, who was a councillor of RZS NSW.³⁴ L.C. Haines³⁵ was chairman and M. H. Gregg³⁶ was secretary. Laurie Haines was one of the members of the then-defunct EntSocNSW2 who had remained loyal to Ken Fairey and had not joined SES. Chadwick and other members of SES/EntSocAust (NSW) attended the inaugural meeting (1957) and everyone concluded that the two groups could coexist without conflict. Unfortunately there are no minute books available to provide information before 1969.³⁷ The section produced "Communications" from 1961- generally short notes from the members on observations of various insects. Early contributors included Ian Mosse-Robinson, Len Willan, Courtenay Smithers, Laurie Haines, John Peters, E.O. Edwards (father of Ted Edwards), Don Sands, Max Moulds, Max Gregg, P. Colman, N. Darwin-Allen, M. Dowling. More names appear in the Communications, a total of 18 contributors. Someone mentioned meeting Rex Gilroy in Katoomba, so he was probably also a member. Haines also mentioned Fairey, Chadwick, Levitt, Marlow, Willan, Harford, Salkilld, Keast, Davis, Bollinger, Jones and Crook as early attendees. As with the previous society, in 1963 editor Len Willan had to make urgent pleas for material to fill the pages of the Communications. Ill-health forced Max Gregg to resign from the position of president in October 1963. The last Communication is dated January 1964, but Courtenay Smithers is noted as representing RZS on the council of AES in 1965.³⁸ As indicated above, there seems to have been a gap, at least in recorded activities, from 1964. The unnamed author of the 30 year history mentioned records of talks and field trips but gave no specific information.

After Max Gregg's retirement from the presidency, the Section continued under new management with a young Rex GF Gilroy at the helm. DFH was inveigled into giving a talk on her PhD work to his group - it must have been 1965 or 1966 and took place at the Australian Museum. Seeing that one of the main items on their agenda was "Sightings and Captures", it was not surprising that their eyes glazed over when the talk was about aphid polymorphism. But the president, while thanking the speaker, announced strongly that "the last thing we want is professional entomologists!" It gradually became clear that he meant people who caught Australian butterflies for sale overseas. Rex Gilroy became well-known for his pursuit of yowies in the Blue Mountains. He died in 2023 but his website is still online as well as other reports of his work.³⁹

The RZS entomological group became silent soon after, although the Section claimed to have been operating continuously for 30 years up to 1987. It was once again active in a small way in the 1970s but the group was not

³² Uncle of D. F. Waterhouse, future chief of the CSIRO Division of Entomology, and a strong influence on his early life and interests. <https://csiropedia.csiro.au/Waterhouse-Douglas-Frew/>, 8 June 2024.

³³ Goldfinch trained as an entomologist and became an expert on some moth groups but was also interested in shells and was employed for a time as conchologist at the Australian Museum. <https://www.eoas.info/biogs/P001893b.htm>. 8 June 2024.

³⁴ Haines, L. (1987). Circular of the Entomology Section **52**: 27 - 29.

³⁵ Laurie Haines was a piano teacher but also a keen moth collector in his spare time. His attempts to collect moths at streetlights using a step-ladder attracted the attention of the law. Not understanding the importance of moth collecting, they decided he was not of sound mind and took him to Gladesville Mental Hospital! (Willan, pers. comm.)

³⁶ Gregg later became President of the Parramatta Flora and Fauna Society. Parsons, pers. comm.

³⁷ Unknown author (1979) *Circular of the Entomology Section*. **49**: 13- 14.

³⁸ Fletcher, MJ and Monteith, GB (2016). History of the Australian Entomological Society. *Austral Entomology*, **55**: 121-131

³⁹ <https://australianyowieresearchcentre.com> (accessed 11 April 2024)

strong, as members had dropped out "to do degree's" and it was proving difficult to find officers in 1979 (Sundholm and Chadwick acting officers). The group appeared inviable because its officers had resigned. A last-ditch appeal in their newsletter secured Ian Stiff as Chairman, Robin Gunning as secretary, and Allen Sundholm as the newsletter editor.⁴⁰

Unexpected help soon came galloping over the horizon.

Following the coup of 1979 (below), a number of members left SES/ ESANSW and joined the RZS group, where Clarry Chadwick took the reins. It continued publishing a circular, in the same format as that of ESANSW, still on foolscap, and conducting activities similar to those of the latter society, with speakers, notes and exhibits, personal notices etc. It continued meeting at the Australian Museum as a successful group until 1989, when the Board of RZSNSW decided to enforce certain requirements on its existing sections. Some of these conditions seemed quite reasonable, for example that at least 10 members of each section must be members of RZS. The Entomology Section did not meet this criterion and appears to have been quite offended by it. "Nobody interested in entomology is going to pay \$15 to join what is virtually a vertebrate zoology society..."⁴¹ It seems they had been collecting their own (\$3.50) membership fees but did not pass them through the parent society, partly on the basis that they would then go to support the vertebrate interests of the bulk of society members. They even got "reimbursement" monies from RZS, presumably for room hire. Assertions by some former members that the RZS had "kicked them out" are not really consistent with events. Furthermore, "Legal advice is that we could be disqualified from the use of the term Entomology Section of RZS". One might question how they had got away with it for so long. They were advised to form a new independent body (secession was not an option), and they proposed to form a new group to be called "The Entomology Group, N.S.W." A meeting was called for February 1989 to vote on this proposal. The notice of this meeting appeared in Circular 62 of RZS Entomology Section in February 1989. The group ended up with the name "The Society for Insect Studies" and is still functioning in 2024. More information appears below

One can sympathise with the Entomology Section in respect to other regulations placed on their operations by RZSNSW, for example being forbidden to "distribute any publication outside the membership of the Section". It is usual for like-minded societies to exchange circulars, journals etc. On the other hand, it was reasonable to restrict them from activities such as making public statements in the name of RZS (of which they weren't even members).

THE SOCIETY FOR INSECT STUDIES, 1989 - PRESENT

In 1989, the board of the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales moved to assert conditions on its sections (see above), and both the Entomology and the Malacology sections were disbanded. Chadwick and the other members of the Entomology group (many of them previously from EntSocNSW3, following the schism of 1979) continued under their own banner as The Society for Insect Studies, with about 50 members. The Society welcomed members interested in any branch of entomology, as had its predecessors. Some of the members went as far back as the Ken Fairey days, e.g. Chadwick, Willan, Fairey himself. Some of the members also belonged to EntSocNSW3. Chadwick had founded The Society of Entomologists in 1953 to break away from the amateurs, but the group who had followed him into RZSNSW and thence into SFIS were mainly amateurs. Ken Fairey was happy to remind Chadwick of the inconsistency.

Chadwick remained president until 2000, a few years before his death in 2004. Now aged over 90, he was happy to relinquish the administrative work of running the society and did not involve himself in its further management or activities. A rapprochement between the two remaining societies (SFIS and EntsocNSW3, Oleg Nicetic President) now became feasible, and a joint meeting of the councils was held, deciding that members of each society would be welcome at activities organised by the other, and that there would be annual joint council meetings and exchange of publications.⁴²

According to recently retired SFIS president Graham Owen, "Clarry ran the Society like a Masonic Lodge. Everything was a secret." But: "The main activities & objectives of SFIS were to protect the habitat & the insect

⁴⁰ Robin Gunning pers comm.

⁴¹ Unknown author (1987). *Circular of the Entomology Section* 62: 45.

⁴² *Circular of the Entomological Society of NSW* (2003), 535: 14-15

fauna that lives within long before it became a woke pursuit. We incorporated it into our logo.⁴³ Our unwritten ethos was that we were for fun & learning, to stimulate discussion & scientific study of all insect & associated invertebrates. To try & understand the evolution through fossil, amber & other evolutionary processes. To provide a social environment that was welcoming & non threatening to newcomers. To provide public talks. To provide excursions across the Sydney Basin. To undertake excursions interstate. To provide a Circular to our members, copies of which are held by the State Library, The National Library & the British Museum".⁴⁴

Among the popular activities of the new society were the frequent field trips, during which members learned from each other about the insects they found. As in Ken Fairey's society, young people were encouraged (they usually came with their parents), and many members were enthusiastic about building up their own collections, later to be donated to public institutions. The society had an impressive peak membership of around 150. It publishes an attractive Circular and previously had an active Facebook page. It does not publish a scientific journal. Since it continues as a successful Society, now in its 35th year, it is not appropriate to attempt a detailed history, as its members are much better placed to undertake this when they decide the time is right.

The internet has changed the way the field work is carried out, and senior members, including former president Graham Owen, are dismayed by the move from serious collecting towards iNaturalist approaches, whereby members photograph everything they find, make up a "vernacular" name and post online without any detailed observation of the anatomy. They also express concern about the future of entomological research in Australia, citing drastic cuts to staff of the ANIC⁴⁵ and entomology sections in museums, and reduced access to existing collections. This concern is shared by all entomologists.⁴⁶

Public interest can be gauged to some extent by attendance at Science Week events or public displays, but "If Science Week is any kind of a gauge, we had 6 500 people visit our stand at the Museum last year. They were 5 deep most of the day. I doubt we could have catered for more. While the interest & excitement that our stand created was rewarding on a personal basis, it created fewer than 10 new applications for membership. This must be a sign of the times. If the story can't be conveyed on one screen of a mobile phone, then it is too long"⁴⁷.

THE SECOND SCHISM (1962)

Back to The Society of Entomologists, Sydney, formed by Clarry Chadwick in 1953 as a "professional" society as opposed to the Entomological Society of NSW (2), aka Ken Fairey's group, perceived by Chadwick as an amateur group.

During 1962, the idea of a national entomological society was gathering strength, and various meetings were held to discuss suitable models. Proponents were drawn from many sources. One of the issues was funding for a national research journal. At the time, the senior state society (ESQ⁴⁸) was the only one with a functioning journal, and they had offered to cede it to the proposed national body. Discovery of a meeting held in Sydney at ANZAAS⁴⁹ in 1962 evoked an intemperate response from the council of SES (Salter was president), accusing the Queensland society of "attempting to run the whole continent" and stating that "the meeting was chaired by a then-member of this Society" with implications that this member was guilty of treachery as he had engaged in these discussions and provided a list of entomologists to ESQ without discussing any of this with Council. He was not named but was easily identified as then-vice president Courtenay Smithers. Obviously, his position was no longer tenable in SES but he was already a member of RZSNSWES2 and had produced an account of the meeting for their Communication No. 15 (October

⁴³ It had also been on every page of the RZSNSW Entomology Section since 1981.

⁴⁴ Minor changes to the presentation have been made.

⁴⁵ Australian National Insect Collection, Canberra.

⁴⁶ An enquiry from DFH to Dr David Yeates (Director of ANIC) received no response.

⁴⁷ Owen, pers comm.

⁴⁸ Entomological Society of Queensland.

⁴⁹ Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science. It had enormous meetings at 18 monthly intervals, with over a dozen sections. Attendees could cruise the whole program. The rise of taxon- or discipline-based societies resulted in a steep drop in conference attendance during the 1990s and the large conferences ceased, but ANZAAS continues in a new guise.

1962). Other SES members of the same opinion about the proposed national body also moved their allegiance to RZS. Smithers's boss, Australian Museum director J.W. Evans, was closely involved in the national discussions and no doubt encouraged Smithers to become active, although he needed little urging, as lack of a national society had been one of his first observations on arriving from Southern Africa. Smithers had passed on a list of entomologists and their contact details to ESQ, probably including, or based on, the list of SES members published in 1959.⁵⁰ Whilst the management at SES might have seen this as treachery, they themselves had already sent this list to people who were members of both ESQ and SES. There was a perceived need for ESQ to expand its membership on a national level, partly to provide a sound financial basis for its journal (a real scientific journal with original refereed papers, unlike *The Australasian Entomologist* and *The Australian Entomologist*).⁵¹ It was desirable also to have a geographically diverse group of members to discuss the structure of the proposed national society. ESQ experienced a 70% increase in membership as a result of canvassing interstate entomologists. It was not the intention of the ESQ to become the national society.

SES, however, reacted with a high level of suspicion and one might even say paranoia, and responded by sending out a circular in October 1962 to all the state societies, proposing a federation format for the national society, with all existing state societies joining on an equal footing, and in preparation for this, changed its name early in 1963 to The Entomological Society of Australia (N.S.W.), expecting others to follow the same format. Simultaneously, it was proposing to start publishing its own journal (see below). "These actions were regarded by many entomologists as an attempt to impose a structure and title on the proposed national body before the views of Australian entomologists had been gauged".⁵² Circulars from 1962-3 frequently referred unfavourably to the proposed national society and the data used for decision-making. Chadwick represented the NSW society at meetings to discuss the proposals.

In September of 1962 it had been proposed that the society should publish a journal, to be titled the *Journal of the Society of Entomologists, Sydney*, the first part to be issued at the end of November. Various principles were laid down for contributions to the journal. They were not very onerous. Acceptance was to be entirely at the will of the editor - no referees required. It was, however, intended to be a step ahead of the AES AB/EntsocNSW2's "journals" in scope and scientific originality. The gestation period turned out to be nearly two years, and the society changed its name in the meantime.

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (N.S.W.) 1963-1977

In 1963, Chadwick returned to the presidency, and the first volume of the journal was published in July 1964, under the title *The Journal of the Entomological Society of Australia (N.S.W.)*. There was by then an editorial committee with the role of accepting papers. Chadwick was chairman. It contained about 10 papers plus summaries of meetings and notes. The actual dates of publication often do not correspond to the nominal date on the cover, meaning that strictly speaking, any citation should be qualified with the actual date of publication, e.g. "Chadwick, CE (1967)..... *Journal of the Entomological Society of Australia (N.S.W.)*. 4: xx-xy, (published November 1968)." The distinction between nominal and publication date is not relevant since 2019 when publication commenced. No journal was published from 1971 to 1973 inclusive. A summary of the journal issues appears in Table 1.

Chadwick's Presidential Address in 1964 seemed out of character in some respects. He expressed a need for more active volunteers. He had tried to involve younger members, but "had picked a loser or two". He said, quite rightly, that rotation of officers every year was desirable, but, surprisingly, that "the society should have a new president every year" but not one "selected for beauty alone". He added that amateurs were not inferior individuals.⁵³

The circulars for 1964 and 1965 continued to give updates on proposals for AES, none considered satisfactory. When the Australian Entomological Society became a reality on 17 August 1965, no mention was made of it in the circular, either then or later.

⁵⁰ Circular of The Society of Entomologists, Sydney, (1959). **84**: p. 68.

⁵¹ The *Journal of the Entomological Society of Australia (NSW)*, later *General and Applied Entomology*, started publication in 1964.

⁵² Marks, EN and Mackerras, IM. (1972). *Australian Journal of Entomology*, **11**:81-90.

⁵³ Circular of the Entomological Society of Australia, NSW, **136**: p. 5ff.

Table 1. Summary of issues of journals. Volumes 1- 9 issued under the title *Journal of the Entomological Society of Australia (N. S. W.)*, and all others under the title *General and Applied Entomology*. Nominal Year = membership subscription year. Published date equivalent to issue date and taken as day after printing.

Vol. No.	Nominal year	Date of publication	Vol. No.	Nominal year	Date of publication
1	1964	1/07/1964	27	1996	28/06/1996
2	1965	30/12/1965	28	1998	11/08/1998
3	1966	23/06/1967	29	2000	15/06/2000
4	1967	27/11/1968	30	2001	15/06/2001
5	1968	18/12/1969	31	2002	30/06/2002
6	1969	21/01/1971	32	2003	30/06/2003
7	1970	23/12/1971	33	2004	30/06/2004
8	1974	31/01/1974	34	2005	30/06/2005
9	1976	31/01/1976	35	2006	30/06/2006
10	1978	20/07/1978	36	2007	30/06/2007
11	1979	28/02/1979	37	2008	30/06/2008
12	1980	31/03/1980	38	2009	30/06/2009
13	1981	30/04/1981	39	2010	30/06/2010
14	1982	31/05/1982	40	2011	? ? 2011
15	1983	31/07/1983	41	2012	? ? 2012
16	1984	28/09/1984	42	2013	30/10/2014
17	1985	30/09/1985	43	2014	30/10/2015
18	1986	10/10/1986	44	2016	? ? 2016
19	1987	30/10/1987	45	2017	31/08/2017
20	1988	31/07/1988	46	2018	31/10/2018
21	1989	31/08/1989	47	2019	6/03/2020
22	1990	31/10/1990	48	2020	10/03/2021
23	1991	20/11/1991	49	2021	20/12/2021
24	1992	29/01/1993	50	2022	30/11/2022
25	1993	15/12/1993	51	2023	23/02/2024
26	1995	30/04/1995	52	2024	Pending

Notes Journal not published in nominal years 1971-73, 1975, 1977, 1994, 1997, 1999. Vos. **24, 42** have page headers showing dates corresponding to the nominal year, although the actual publication was later. Vols. **47** and **49** have no publication date on the cover but the delivery dockets show the dates as in the table. For Vols, **40, 41** and **44** the precise publication dates are not known; only the year can be given. The current format in larger size with glossy blue cover, insect line drawing and circular logo commenced with Vol.**28**, 1998.

According to Geoff Monteith in his account of the life of Dr E.N. ("Pat") Marks, she had to make a personal approach to Chadwick to get NSW on board to support the proposed International Congress of Entomology to be held in Canberra in 1972.⁵⁴ As late as mid-1972, ESANSW was still being implored, this time by Phil Carne, to affiliate with AES and support the ICE. The president agreed to put it to a postal vote of members⁵⁵ and in September it was announced that it had been approved "by a substantial majority". By this time, the ICE (22-30

⁵⁴ Monteith, GB (2006). *Australian Entomologist*, **33**: 171-178.

⁵⁵ Circular of the Entomological Society of Australia, NSW (1972) **224**.

August) was already over, but ESANSW had been given a table there and had handed out a leaflet "*Entomology in NSW*".

The presidential address in 1973 was about some changes in the society from its beginnings, in particular the rising proportion of professional entomologists among the members. The journal was proving costly to print and mail out, and members' subscriptions did not cover the cost. The work of the editor and his team was made more difficult when people submitted handwritten papers (!). It was important that younger members take positions on council so that they could take over the management. He encouraged the young people by disparaging their knowledge and training, hence also disparaging the academics and universities.

Circular 243 of May 1974 foreshadowed Chadwick's retirement from the Department of Agriculture at the age of 65.

In 1976, the Presidential Address was largely directed at the Australian universities, concluding that the University of Queensland was the only one offering a satisfactory training in entomology, based on the amount of time specifically spent on entomology in the first three years of university study. The people employed in the NSW Department of Agriculture, it can be concluded, were not adequately trained. Perhaps worse still were those who had been trained in the Faculty of Science rather than the Faculty of Agriculture. "A person having done a degree in general zoology may choose an entomological subject for a higher degree and hey presto! he becomes an entomologist! This appears to be entry by the back door and can hardly enhance the standing of the profession." That takes DFH and other women trained in the Faculty of Science off on the grounds of training and of gender. Next he turned his weapons on "the misfits who have attained administrative power". Various members requested the circular editor (Alan Clift, *de facto*) to publish some points in rebuttal especially Chadwick's omission of the entomology taught in the fourth year of the Agricultural Science degree at the University of Sydney. Clift duly did so⁵⁶ but Chadwick dismissed any complaints and said his (CEC's) comments were impersonal. He also castigated Clift for calling himself the Circular Editor as there was no such position in the Constitution. The self-justifications were still going in the June newsletter. It is difficult to understand how Chadwick thought that his audience would not see his comments in a personal light. It was clearly war.

THE ATTEMPTED COUP OF 1978

In 1970, the Science Services Branch of the NSW Department of Agriculture was restructured and research areas related to chemistry and biology, including entomology, were relocated to the Sydney suburb of Rydalmere, where Department of Agriculture activities were already in place. Gordon Pasfield was Chief Entomologist at Rydalmere but the position was abolished in 1975. Max Casimir, a foundation member of the society, became Director of Entomology and Victor Edge was Deputy. The move coincided with the early professional lives of young entomologists trained in the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Sydney by Fred McDonald, as well as some young science graduates. This cohort was a potential source of active young members of the society and many of them joined. The journal was a convenient vehicle for their publications, based, as they were, on insects relevant to agriculture and horticulture in NSW.

In 1975 and 1976 Council included the following people from the Department of Agriculture at Rydalmere: Chadwick (retired), President and Editor, Clift, assistant secretary, Elshafie, business manager, Brown, councillor. Mrs N. Anderson, otherwise known as Jenny, was a non-Rydalmere councillor. The Editorial Committee included Casimir, Snowball and Hickman. Vic Edge encouraged the young scientists to join the society and stand for positions on Council. At the 1977 AGM, Andrew Beattie⁵⁷ and Richard Faulder became Councillors. The October circular notes Paul Hughes, Marilyn Fox, Fred McDonald, Dinah Hales as new members followed by Robert Ryan in November, and Robin Gunning and Ian Stiff in February 1978.

February 1978 saw the 25th anniversary of the Society, and plans were made to celebrate it with a barbecue at Cumberland State Forest. But before that came the AGM and election of officers. Alan Clift, who had been a member of Council since 1972, was persuaded to stand for the position of President. There was a good turn up at the meeting but Chadwick had recognised the threat and acquired a large number of proxies from members who did not

⁵⁶Circular of the Entomological Society of Australia, NSW, May (1976) 264.

⁵⁷ "Andrew Beattie" is GAC Beattie, of Rydalmere and UWS/WSU, not AJ Beattie of Macquarie University.

normally attend meetings. He read some of the associated messages to the meeting and one person wrote "young people think they know everything". Chadwick prevailed over Clift thanks to the proxies and thus 1978 continued as 1977 had begun. Keith Campbell was still vice president and Ted Taylor the forever treasurer, both of them from Forestry. Elshafie was still business manager. There were, however, considerable changes to Council, which now included Andrew Beattie as secretary, Fred McDonald of the University of Sydney as editor, and councillors Hamilton, Hughes and Brown, all from Rydalmere, and Mick Catley, from the federal Department of Primary Industries.⁵⁸ Winds of change.

Circular 292 of February 1979 provided the Annual Report for 1978. It gave the ordinary membership at around 100, and the program for the year had included 8 meetings with speakers. The Presidential Address from Chadwick for the year was entitled "Twenty Five Years of Effort". It included some amusing anecdotes, and a general history of the society. Chadwick took issue with Marks and Mackerras in their 1972 history of the formation of the AES for their slightly frivolous account of the instability of entomological societies in NSW, and also their description of the current society as a "breakaway group", and he claimed that "no more than four or five at most had belonged to the preceding amateur group"⁵⁹. It is impossible to check this assertion because there was no up-to-date published list of members of the original group. The structure of the AES and its history was again reviewed unfavourably. The rise of television was mentioned as a cause of reduced meeting attendance. One could suggest other causes: many of the members worked at a distance from the city and had enough people with like interests in their own workplaces not to feel the need for out-of-hours meetings. Some of them had young families. And they found the meetings' atmosphere of grey formality and repression unattractive.

THE COUP OF 1979

Young people don't know everything but they learn quickly. The membership grew in 1978 - Ris, Loudon, Clancy, Read, Westcott, then during August, Bishop, Dominiak, Fletcher, Forrester, Goodwin, Greenup, Perry, Schicha, Treverrow and Wright. Then Smithers (returning), Hosking and Spooner-Hart. The number of members listed in the Annual Report⁶⁰ was 124 including 8 company associates, plus 8 unfinancial. DFH was overseas at the time of the 1979 AGM but we have an account from a member who was present.

"I remember the AGM in 1979. Andrew Beattie had got me to join the NSW Ento Soc before the meeting so I could add to the votes against Clarrie Chadwick. I remember John Hamilton (who didn't have a bad word to say about anybody) telling me that Clarrie was "very difficult" in the committee meetings of the ESNSW. I didn't know Clarrie, despite his having been the curator of the very collection I was now working with, and went to the AGM with an open mind, prepared to vote for Clarrie if I felt it was warranted. However, Clarrie gave his Presidential Address prior to the election of office bearers and he unleashed an unbelievable attack on those who opposed him. Everybody who worked at BCRI was dismissed as being "applied chemists" with no interest in Entomology at all. I knew that most of the people at BCRI were working to reduce pesticide use. This required understanding the ecology of the main pests and looking at ways to manipulate their environment to bring them under control. I noted that he made no exception for Eberhard and me who were taxonomists and had nothing to do with applied entomology (let alone applied chemistry!) so I joined the vote against him. Clarrie was soundly beaten by Alan Clift for the Presidency and refused to stand as Vice President until Ted Taylor had a quiet word with him and persuaded him to stand....and he was not elected to the Vice Presidency either and then he refused to stand for the committee at all. He never returned to the Ento Soc NSW." ⁶¹

The committee elected was composed of Alan Clift, President, Keith Campbell, Vice President, Andrew Beattie, Secretary, Graham Brown, Assistant Secretary, Ted Taylor, Treasurer, Editor Fred McDonald, Business Manager Mostafa Elshafie, and other councillors John Hamilton, Andy Ramage, Erik Shipp and Don Smith. The Editorial Panel included Vic Edge, Dinah Hales, Erik Shipp and Courtenay Smithers.

⁵⁸Circular of the Entomological Society of Australia, NSW. (1978) 283.

⁵⁹ The membership policy of the "amateur society" had always been inclusive and it had hoped to represent every entomologist in Australia.

⁶⁰ *Circular of the Entomological Society of Australia, NSW.* (1979) 292.

⁶¹ Fletcher, pers. comm.

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT, 1979-1995

The new council of The Entomological Society of Australia (NSW) now had to get its act together and decide on its program for the future. Circular 294 of March 1979 included the outcomes of the AGM and is on... A4 paper! It carried a drawing of *Extatosoma* (Phasmatodea) by Alan Westcott, the first of a series of masthead line drawings by various contributors.

Circular 305 showed the 1980 executive as Jenny Anderson (President), Don Smith (Secretary) and Ted Taylor (Treasurer). The headline insect was an excellent drawing of a beetle, *Monochirus multispinosus*, by Alan Westcott. This Circular reported the results of a Special General Meeting to consider changing the name of the Society from its bulky and by now irrelevant title to the simple and obvious Entomological Society of NSW. A vote of 51 members present unanimously supported the change. Young⁶² people don't know everything - probably no-one mentioned that this was the third society to bear this name. The former president Chadwick threatened the Society with legal action for its procedures in changing the name, and "someone" challenged the Council elections on the basis of insufficient notice.⁶³

The Circular announced that the speaker at the June meeting would be Ian Mahood⁶⁴ of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. His talk mentioned the plans of the service to protect certain insect species, and asked for the Society's opinions. The Society had not really thought about the ramifications of this proposal, but asked for opinions from outside the immediate audience. Geoff Monteith was one respondent and was strongly of the view that species should be protected by habitat conservation rather than restrictions on collecting. Smithers and McAlpine of the Australian Museum held views somewhat different from Monteith's. The Council of the Society examined the arguments and put their considered views to the relevant government bodies. No changes in the law were made at the time.

Their path forward was not made easier by the fact that Chadwick was a life member and received all the Society's communications. Gone but not forgotten, or forgetting. The Society's next few years, up to at least 1983, were made difficult by Chadwick's written complaints about every action taken by the new committee, not to mention the actions taken in 1978-79, when "one individual"⁶⁵ had made council meetings very unpleasant with his overbearing "demands", for example that the Society should move with the times and change from foolscap to A4.⁶⁶ This individual was characterised as a "prickly-bearded anarchist" and Chadwick suggested that the prickly cocoon of the moth *Chelepteryx* would make a suitable emblem for the society. The behaviour of the anarchist in organising opposition to Chadwick's re-election in 1979 was considered unconscionable, but apparently stacking the 1978 election with proxies was not. Chadwick addressed to the Society his "Review of Events", with space for a co-signatory from the Community Justice Centre. It was typed single-spaced with narrow margins and covered 6 pages (foolscap of course).⁶⁷ The president and secretary of the Society in 1982 and 1983 were Courtenay Smithers and Harley Rose respectively. It fell to them after discussion with Council to put together a response.

Rose had joined the University of Sydney in 1973 as lecturer in entomology. His teaching and research were in the areas of insect toxicology and pesticide resistance, but on the lighter side, he became an expert on giant burrowing cockroaches.⁶⁸ Some of Chadwick's complaints are outlined below.

Alarming, "someone" whose papers had always been accepted in the past had been asked to make revisions to his paper. He refused to do so and sent the paper to an overseas journal where it was accepted without change. On a more serious matter in this document, Chadwick accused the society of not having had its finances properly audited.

⁶² By "young" think up to say mid-30s.

⁶³ *Circular of the Entomological Society of NSW* (1980). 303

⁶⁴ Ian Mahood was a National Parks ranger and post-graduate student at Macquarie University. He was tragically killed in a helicopter crash while doing fieldwork in western NSW in 1981, and his colleague Leong Lim (also a Macquarie post-graduate) was severely injured.

⁶⁵ Not named, but it was Andrew Beattie (self-identified). Andrew had deeply disliked these times of conflict

⁶⁶ Document from CEC to the society, unsigned and undated, probably 1982.

⁶⁷ Copies of this document and of a draft reply by the Society are in DFH's possession.

⁶⁸ <https://archives-search.sydney.edu.au/nodes/view/30929>, photo of H. Rose and D. Rugg with giant cockroaches. Doug Rugg succeeded Rose as secretary of the Society, 1984-1986.

It turned out that this accusation was based on the fact that there was a new auditor, because the long-time auditor had retired. Chadwick wrote that the old auditor had told him that he wouldn't have given a certificate, but maybe the auditor felt it was better to placate than argue. The new auditor was a chartered accountant and presented the accounts according to current auditing practice. He was probably better qualified for the job than Council members Tristram and Hadlington, who had audited the accounts in the first few years.

Chadwick continued his line of "anarchy" and "aggression even against school children". In the latter case, he appeared to be referring to a proposal to run a workshop for amateurs described in the Circular as a workshop "to be aimed initially at high school students".⁶⁹ Perhaps it could have been better phrased as "designed for high school students" but the meaning is clear and has nothing to do with "aggression". Another of Chadwick's rather distasteful attacks was against the Society for conferring life membership on "someone" who was not qualified for it. It turned out to be "Nik" Nikitin, who had been CEC's assistant at Rydalmere. The Circular later published parts of his autobiography which certainly records significant work before coming to Australia (see below), but the Council probably did not know of this work at the time and the nomination might have been technically outside the concept of a life member.

The real crux of Chadwick's complaints in this document was the matter of the "Handbook Fund" to which he had donated small amounts of money over time. It was clear to the current council that there would never be sufficient funds in this account to produce a handbook and they had moved the money into another account that paid more interest, but had not "confiscated" or spent it. Whilst most of the councillors were fairly new, Ted Taylor had been treasurer since 1969 and knew the history of these donations. The council declined to enter into conciliation but returned the money in question, plus the interest, suggested at a rate of 9% by Chadwick. The return of \$252.28 to CE Chadwick was noted in the financial statement at the 1984 AGM. It seems he chose not to follow the suggested alternative option of having the money donated to a charity of his choice.

Chadwick and some of the members, especially those not employed in entomological research, support or teaching, had gone to the Royal Zoological Society of NSW Entomology Section after the 1979 election. An unnamed person who was also a member of EntSocAust(NSW) was said to have "demanded" that the RZSNSW Entomology Section be disbanded, with the motive of "obtaining more members for the society they had just left". We have not been able to identify this person. For "demanded", Chadwick's favourite word for any contrary idea, "suggested" could probably be used.

The Society continued on a stable course. The Council was filled and most positions turned over every couple of years. Membership remained above 100. There were excellent and varied talks at the monthly meetings. Although the Society now saw itself as concentrating more on the interests of working entomologists, it welcomed anyone with an interest in insects or other terrestrial arthropods. The Society ran some excellent symposia, such as "Entomological Education in the 80's" (*sic*, should be 80s), discussions on conservation of insects, a hands-on workshop of techniques for amateurs (55 attendees, September 1982), a sub-group for taxonomists. We made a tape-slide series about insects for secondary students studying the Species Concept, but didn't make much money from it. There was also a very successful Book Fair in 1985 run by the Society in the person of Max Moulds at the Australian Museum.

"Home" for the meetings was still at the Australian Museum. One of the rooms we met in contained a stuffed emu. It was generally added to the attendance record as "Emu, *ex officio*." Meetings were held at the varied locations where members worked, including CSIRO's *Kooyong* at Warrawee, the Army's malaria research unit at Ingleburn, Quarantine at Rosebery, universities. Renovations to the Museum pushed us out for a time and the meetings moved mainly to BCRI at Rydalmere. The move seemed unpopular with members who worked in the city or lived far from the venue, and attendance suffered.

Presidential addresses were thoughtful and covered specific interests or more general ones such as the future of books, the desirable characteristics of a society like ours, and so on. Weekend collecting trips were organised, sometimes at the University of Sydney's Field Station "Warrah" at Pearl Beach. The annual dinner moved around to

⁶⁹ *Circular of the Entomological Society of NSW* (1982) 320.

various interesting venues. In 1992 Angie Condello and Vic Cherikoff created a very entertaining menu in the form of a published scientific paper with every item or component given its scientific name including family. Insects featured prominently in the meal. Angie did the cooking, Vic supplied the insect components.

The journal appeared as close as possible to schedule, though with some changes of rules for contributors, largely aimed at maximising cost recovery and providing a vehicle for publication by actual members. A common refrain from the various editors begged for submission of more papers and quick revision if required.

The Circular also continued to appear on schedule. Murray Fletcher seemed set to be the forever Circular Editor, a title that tickled his sense of humour. He carried out the role from 1982 to 1989 inclusive, sometimes simultaneously with executive roles including president and secretary. After 1989 Peter Gillespie became Circular Editor. The tradition of changing the headline insect in the Circular every year continued, with black and white drawings from Alan Westcott, Marnie Holmes, Dan Bickel and Eren Turak featured in the first few years.

In 1983 there were proposals to update the Constitution, including requirements of nomination of new potential members and the procedures for dissolution of the Society.

A fascinating series in the Circulars of 1986 was the autobiography of MI ("Steve" or "Nik") Nikitin, published with permission of his sister after Steve's death earlier in the year.⁷⁰ A White Russian, Steve spent his early life in Siberia. He was a keen entomologist from his childhood. He and his mother moved to Manchuria, and he recounted close encounters with the local wildlife, including tigers, raccoon dogs and wildcats. Moving to Harbin, he attracted the attention of staff in the Museum. He later was employed there and rose through the ranks to director. His work inspired the local powers to give him the title of Doctor. He survived the Japanese invasion and the USSR invasion. Both were damaging to the museum. During this period he played a major part in successful management of epidemics of malaria and plague. Finally the Communist Chinese invasion caused the Nikitins to look for a new home in Australia, where his sisters already lived. Unfortunately but not surprisingly, work suiting his interests and qualifications was hard to find. Eventually he got a job as Chadwick's assistant in the insect collection of the Department of Agriculture. His overseas qualifications and experience would have fitted him for a more senior position and one can only assume that he disliked the power imbalance and lack of recognition of his previous work. Chadwick, on his side, did not find him a satisfactory assistant (partly because he was for long periods engaged in fieldwork not associated with the collection)⁷¹, but he provided an obituary in the RZSNSWES circular. For some reason "me" and "my assistant" are underlined in the obituary.⁷²

In 1987 we were sorry to hear of the closure of the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine at the University of Sydney, with their entomologists dispersed to other locations, including Westmead Hospital. A small highlight in the year was a letter from a young boy who hoped we could send him tropical butterflies. He finished his letter "PS Please send them DEAD".

A landmark for the Society was its incorporation in 1988. Despite the good membership numbers, meeting attendance was disappointing. Andrew Beattie stimulated attendance by personally phoning members prior to each meeting. One could suggest many reasons for the low numbers. One of the authors (Hales), listed a set of factors limiting her meeting attendance: a full-time academic job and three young boys (and their sports, and the shopping and housework) was just about enough, especially when the venues were far from home. This was not to deny the benefits of expanding one's horizons! She also had a commitment to AES as a NSW councillor, editorial board member and later President. Many of the other members at the time could tell similar stories.

In 1989, DFH's role as AES Councillor meant that the task of organising the week-long AES conference fell on Sydney entomologists, including members of EntSocNSW. Thanks to the work of Ken Brown, John Macdonald, Andrew Beattie, Alan Clift, Christine Stone and Dan Bickel, the meeting in May at Macquarie University was a success. Highlights included the presence of Victor Eastop, aphid taxonomist from the Natural History Museum, London, and a dinner organised by Ken Brown at Taronga Zoo. The mosquito people from the Army arrived in full

⁷⁰ *Circular of the Entomological Society of NSW* (1986) **359, 360, 361**.

⁷¹ Chadwick, CE. (1988). The history of a collection. *Circular RZSNSW Entomology Section*, **57**: 3-12.

⁷² Chadwick, CE. (1987). Obituary, MI Nikitin, 1911-1986. *Circular RZSNSW Entomology Section*, **49**: 15-16

officers' uniform, driven right up to the gates by a uniformed soldier! The rest of us came in chartered buses. There was a small disaster with morning tea arrangements. Everything, including the new mugs with the logo, was set out in the courtyard waiting for the scientific session to finish. We should have predicted that wandering students would consider this an open invitation. We lost some of the mugs and some of the morning tea.

Unfortunately we had once again annoyed Clarry, this time by innocently choosing the Botany Bay weevil for a logo. A historic local insect, after all, but as we later discovered, also the logo of the RZSNSW Entomology Section from 1982 and continued as its members moved away to form the Society for Insect Studies.

EntSocNSW3 members were heavily involved in organising later AES meetings, at Tamworth (1994, Robin Gunning), Manly (2001, Robert Spooner-Hart) and Orange (2008, Murray Fletcher). From the early 2000s AES paid a professional conference organiser to do the general work required for this sort of large meeting, but in the earlier ones it all fell on the local committee. The Manly meeting (run by Robert Spooner-Hart and committee, without the services of a professional organiser) was disrupted by the failure of Ansett Airlines, on which many delegates had booked their flights. The Orange meeting did have a paid organiser and it was an excellent meeting - Murray Fletcher made sure that the food was sumptuous. The papers were good too.⁷³

First the Australian Museum, and then BCRI at Rydalmere, undertook refurbishments that left us without a regular venue for meetings. Back in the Museum, we unsuccessfully begged the director (Des Griffin) for a reduction in payments for room rental.

There had been talk about decentralisation of the activities at BCRI, but in the middle of 1990 it was announced that BCRI would stay as and where it was, in Rydalmere⁷⁴. In his presidential address in 1991, Graham Brown explained to us why entomologists were better than computers.

In 1992, the Circular obtained its own ISSN identity, ISSN 1037 - 3020.

1993 marked the 40th anniversary of the society, and all past presidents were invited to a celebratory dinner and gave brief talks on the Society's history. Chadwick did not attend, so the early history was covered by Brown. The talks are published in Circular 437, 1993.

In 1995 Fred McDonald turned 60 and decided to retire from the University of Sydney (but not, of course, to give up his work on heteropterans). He had trained many entomologists in the Faculty of Agriculture, and the occasion was celebrated at the University's Sports Pavilion. Fred gave a talk to the Society about his years of teaching, the difficulties of providing adequate lab work, and the changing backgrounds and motivations of students.⁷⁵

In October 1995 the Society again ran a workshop for amateurs, with Robert Spooner-Hart as convener. Good value at \$50 for the two days, but apart from the benefits to attendees, it was hoped also to attract new members. The paperwork for this event included, for the first time, the circular logo now used on *Tarsus* and the journal. We have not been able to determine the designer's name or the circumstances in which it was commissioned, or otherwise acquired. Any information would be gratefully received, so that this talented person can be acknowledged.

Grant Herron gave an eerie story of the prescient behaviour of sarcophagid flies following the death of a family member.⁷⁶ And in 1995, the news came that BCRI was to be closed and the staff dispersed.⁷⁷ This was not quite terminal, as there was to be an appeal process.⁷⁸

⁷³ *Tarsus* (2008) **584**: 36-38

⁷⁴ *Circular of the Entomological Society of NSW* (1990), **401**: 12.

⁷⁵ *Circular of the Entomological Society of NSW* (1995), **449**: 11 - 12

⁷⁶ *Circular of the Entomological Society of NSW*, (1995) **450**: 14.

⁷⁷ *Circular of the Entomological Society of NSW* (1995) **454**: 52

⁷⁸ *Circular of the Entomological Society of NSW* (1995) **455**: 59

THE DISASTER OF 1996

The Society continued on unruffled seas. But storm clouds were not far away. An appeal against the decision was mounted and evidence was heard by a parliamentary committee, of which Eddie Obeid was one of the members. The appeal was lost, as announced in August 1996. Rydalmere was to be closed and most of its staff were to be relocated to country centres, including Orange, Yanco, Wagga Wagga, EMAI⁷⁹ etc. Sometimes husband and wife were slated for relocation to different parts of the state. Some staff chose to retire or to leave the Department and seek academic positions or work as consultants.⁸⁰

Alan Westcott, president in 1995, had foreshadowed the event and pointed out that the actual number of people affected was quite a small proportion of the total membership of 216, and that a meeting of the Society had been confident in the continued success of the society. But the end result for the Society was that many active members were dispersed from Sydney. For example, the Council for 1995 had seven members from BCRI, and they were responsible for ten of the jobs. In 1996, five Rydalmere people were carrying seven of the major jobs on Council. The positions of Secretary and Circular Editor were vacant.

Rydalmere closed finally in January 1997. The BCRI people might remain paid-up members, but, if in country centres, they could not be present at meetings and work on Council would be difficult. No Zoom, and email and the internet were relatively new. And we lost our main venue for meetings and production base for the circulars. People who resigned from the Department of Agriculture but remained in Greater Sydney were often faced with longer travel times or relocation to be closer to work. Relocation can have wider effects than on the individual. Schooling and partner's job could be compromised too. All these factors weakened the Society.

But the show must go on. Despite the loss of the person-power base of Council for the preceding years, a full Council was elected at the 1997 AGM. Robert Spooner-Hart was president, Alan Clift, one of those who had resigned from the Department of Agriculture, was vice president. Ted Taylor was the forever treasurer. Alan Westcott and Mary-Ann Terras, destined for EMAI, were taxonomy editor and public officer respectively. The councillors included Peter Gillespie (Orange), and Oleg Nicetic, part of Andrew Beattie's team who had relocated to the University of Western Sydney at Hawkesbury. The largest group of entomologists in the Sydney area was now at Richmond. UWS, incidentally, had acquired the Rydalmere location as its UWS (Nepean) campus. This must have been a done deal at the time of the appeals against the closure of BCRI, because Eddie Obeid criticised DFH for not having got it for Macquarie University. It showed that the appeal was a waste of everyone's time.

PICKING UP THE PIECES 1997 - 2017

1997 saw a full council elected with Robert Spooner-Hart as president. Gith "Gitte" Strid's drawing of a winged bulldog ant was chosen as the masthead drawing.⁸¹ Gitte has served for many years as Business Manager, with responsibilities for journal distribution and management of the Society's stall at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden.

The meetings followed the traditional pattern with invited speakers, whose contributions were summarised in the Circular. About nine meetings with speakers were held each year, plus the AGM meeting in March and Annual Dinner in December. Generally there was no Society activity in January. Add to this excursions and special events, and the Society could claim to be as active and proactive as before the dispersal of the Rydalmere people. Associates and postgraduate students from the University of Western Sydney - Hawkesbury took up council positions and contributed greatly to the running of the Society: for example in 1999, with Robert Spooner-Hart as President, four other UWS-H people were on council (Basta, Hossain, Howpage, Nicetic). Oleg Nicetic was subsequently president and is now at the University of Queensland. Albert Basta continued working at UWS. Several young women also contributed strongly in this phase of the Society's life: Isla Carswell, Mary Cannard, Tanya James, taking on major roles such as secretary and circular editor. Back then, the circular had to be prepared and printed, as many as eight pages of double column text, then mailed individually to each member. It was a demanding task. They followed in

⁷⁹ Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, at Menangle, closer to Wollongong than Sydney.

⁸⁰ *Circular of the Entomological Society of NSW* (1995) 455: 52

⁸¹ The course Biology of Insects at Macquarie University included instruction from a professional biological illustrator. Strid and Turak had both taken this course.

the footsteps of Mrs Alison Nicholls, who had held the position of secretary in the early 1990s. In 2001, the Society actually had double the required number of councillors, eight nominees, four elected and the other four co-opted!

Some meetings were held at Macquarie University, with the security men on the gates being fairly generous about not charging for parking. But to everyone's horror, after one meeting in 1998, members were shocked to receive parking fines issued by the police!⁸² The venue naturally became unpopular but was still used from time to time, with members now aware that they needed to pay for parking, even if there was no-one on the gate. In a later court action, Mary-Lynne Taylor and colleagues managed to get the fines repealed.

Age was sometimes an issue. Alan Westcott had remarked on the age range of the membership "from twelve to over 70!" Robert Spooner-Hart in his 1998 presidential address referred to himself as "an old bugger" at 50. 26 years later, he is still a full-time academic and researcher. His 50th birthday had been noted for his enactment of his own metamorphosis, crawling in a sleeping bag to represent the larval stage, then emerging as a winged adult. While he was probably thinking in terms of a lepidopteran, his friends pointed out that, seeing the sleeping bag "larva" had no legs, and the adult only two wings, he was not a butterfly but a blowfly.⁸³ In hindsight, 70 was young and 50 was very young. A number of the active members now are 80+.

The Society organised ambitious long distance field trips, e.g. to Narrabri Cotton Research Station (1998), Orange (2001), Griffith, including Leeton and Yanco, (2002).

In 1999, ironically, Rydalmere (now UWS) once again became our home for some meetings, even in the same room. The society organised a seminar day for postgraduate students. Some were so delighted with the possibilities of Powerpoint that their slides, with backgrounds of flowers and foliage, were almost unreadable. That's one of the reasons for having practice sessions, and the Society placed this seminar day on its calendar to be run in alternate years.

The year 2000 was not only the millennium, but also the date of circular 500, published prior to the February meeting of the Society, but with page numbering following on from the previous year. By convention, new page numbering started in the circular after the AGM. At the AGM the taxonomic editor Dan Bickel spoke of the journal's problems. Basically, if there were not enough worthwhile submitted papers, the journal came out late. If the journal came out late, it was regarded as unreliable and people didn't submit papers, resulting in a downward spiral. Garry Levot was elected Editor (Applied). Table 2 shows the data on production and issue of the journal.

The year 2000 was also the year of the Sydney Olympics. The entomological highlight was the vast number of early-migrating bogong moths attracted by the powerful mercury vapour lights around the venues, terrifying both athletes and visitors, invading toilet blocks, entering air conditioners and setting off alarms. Advice from CSIRO lepidopterist Ted Edwards was "Learn to like them." Long time member Andy Ryland of The Beneficial Bug Company had warned the Olympic Authority three years previously that this problem would quite likely emerge, but no action was taken.⁸⁴ Graham Goodyer gave a talk to the Society on the biology of the Bogong moth and the history of research on it.⁸⁵

Later in 2000, the Society announced that its first website was up and running: www.entsocnsw.netfirms.com. It was set up and managed by recently-graduated Max Hales, software engineer. Council members were invited to provide mini CVs but the email address was incorrectly written in the circular and unsurprisingly, nothing arrived. It was a long way from the bells, whistles and technicolour of the current site, but it was a start.⁸⁶

⁸² *Circular of the Entomological Society of NSW* (1998), **485**: 22

⁸³ *Circular of the Entomological Society of NSW* (1998), **481**: 4-5.

⁸⁴ *Circular of the Entomological Society of NSW* (2000), **508**: 39-40.

⁸⁵ *Circular of the Entomological Society of NSW* (2001), **514**: 12-14.

⁸⁶ *Circular of the Entomological Society of NSW* (2000), **503**: 12.

The Society ran another postgraduate student workshop in 2001. Our current vice-president, Nigel Andrew, was awarded the prize for the most outstanding presentation.⁸⁷ Our current secretary, Khalid Ahmad, was one of the speakers in the 2003 event.⁸⁸

2003 saw the Society celebrate 50 years of continuous activity with a special dinner at the Epping RSL Club on 28 June. A wonderful audio-visual display was arranged by Oleg Nicetic, and Robert Spooner-Hart organised an exciting game of "Bug Bingo". Almost all the past presidents were there - Graham Brown, Clift, Fletcher, Macdonald, Moulds, Nicetic, Smithers, Spooner-Hart and Westcott. Clarry Chadwick was invited but, by then in his 90s, did not attend. A citation was read recognising his long-distinguished service to entomology in NSW.⁸⁹ Spooner-Hart and Westcott wrote a paper on the Society's history, published in *General and Applied Entomology*.⁹⁰

In the year 2004, our pages seemed to be full of obituaries. Don Scambler, one of the elders of the Society, had died in December 2003. Graham Young and Graeme Baker (both had been contemporaries of DFH at Sydney University and both had spent time as entomologists in Papua New Guinea) died in February 2004. Work in PNG was usually with teams of local assistants, who were learning about integrated pest management as well as helping with the physical work. Graham, and presumably also Graeme, were fluent speakers of Neo-Melanesian. Graham asked his team how much pay-back they thought they could get if he (Graham) was killed by a rival group. The answer was quickly given: "a second-hand Toyota Landcruiser, or the money for one". Graham and Graeme knew each other well and Graham had been determined to speak at Graeme's funeral, and to describe his work as an excellent orthopterist.⁹¹ They knew that their days were numbered, with different forms of cancer. Graham died quite suddenly from pneumonia on 18 February, and Graeme only three days later. Then in April we lost Graham Clancy. Four excellent entomologists and active members of the society and of course people we counted as friends.

The Society issued a FAX-back survey to members to canvass views on directions for the Society to make sure it survived into the future. Twenty years on, we are still surviving and publishing, but still discussing the rather dark future.

Here endeth the reading of the bound volumes of printed circulars, the last one being No. 554, March 2005, announcing the upcoming AGM (at Ermington) and a BBQ and light-trapping evening to be held at Cumberland State Forest in association with the Society for Insect Studies. Mary Cannard retired from the role of circular editor. The Circular now moved to online production only, and took on the new title *Tarsus* **563**. (Most) past issues are available on the Society's website, <https://www.entsocnsw.org.au>. Unfortunately, at this stage Nos 555- 562 and 564 are not included in the collection. Issue 563, February 2006, leads with the usual sort of problem, enunciated this time by the President, Martin Horwood, not enough of something, in this case not enough speakers to fill the year's program in advance. This followed a year when Council had been short of four councillors and there had been no quorum at the AGM. Nobody had taken up the role of Circular Editor in 2005 and the President had had to do it.⁹²

The Office of the State Cabinet knocked back our suggestion of a State Insect Emblem. (We had suggested the Botany Bay weevil). "It is now up to the State Heritage Commission to follow this up with the Government." It seems NSW still has not named an insect as an emblem of the state.

Tarsus 563 featured a photo of a giant bed bug cuddling Stephen Doggett, medical entomologist, who was the February speaker. Notes on termites by Ted Taylor, and by DFH on the recent International Aphid Symposium in Fremantle, took up a couple of pages, and the upcoming AGM was advertised. Despite poor attendance at the AGM, a full council was elected for 2006 with some interesting "new blood" among the councillors, Robin Parsons and

⁸⁷ *Circular of the Entomological Society of NSW* (2001), **517**: 33.

⁸⁸ *Circular of the Entomological Society of NSW* (2003), **540**: 40.

⁸⁹ *Circular of the Entomological Society of NSW* (2003), **537**: 34-35.

⁹⁰ Westcott, A.E and Spooner-Hart, R.N. (2003). 50th anniversary of the Entomological Society of NSW Inc. *General and Applied Entomology*, **32**:1-3.

⁹¹ Beattie, pers. comm.

⁹² *Tarsus* (2006) **565**: 11.

Graeme Smith. Gith Strid by now certainly deserved the informal title of the (almost) forever Business Manager. Not quite forever, as Mark Stevens in Yanco performed the role from 2010 to 2014.

Martin Horwood's presidential address was, however, an account of disappointments of the previous year - lack of attendance by members at meetings, lack of willingness to take on council roles, lack of participation in organised excursions, complaints about change (e.g. from print to the online circular).⁹³ Future president Bob Ryan of BOC was the speaker at the April 2006 meeting.

Tarsus 567 (July 2006) gave notice of intention to update the Constitution, including removal of the need for an external auditor because of the cost, in a time where we were experiencing extra expenditure related to room hire and printing. There is the second part of a timeline of entomology. The first part had appeared in *Tarsus* 566, and both were adapted from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_Entomology_-_Prior_to_1800. There are some photos of show and tell exhibits, including one shown by DFH, of aphids on a purchased (unnamed) seedling. There are two remarkable things about this. One is that the aphids are captioned as rose aphids. They certainly don't look like rose aphids even in the low-resolution photo and maybe this was an editorial error. After all, for the general non-aphidophile public all aphids are rose aphids. The other is that in the photo DFH was wearing the very same fleece garment as she was often wearing while writing this. The following *Tarsus* set the identity record straight - they were banana aphids and the seedling was *Caladium* sp., an indoor plant with large coloured leaves. It didn't do too well. Standard fare for *Tarsus* at the time included an account of the previous speaker's presentation, Show and Tell, and an "Insect of the Month" with photos and text.

The December *Tarsus* (#572) advertised the first of our Christmas dinners to be held at the Boatshed Café, La Perouse. Ted and Mary-Lynne Taylor had for some time organised the dinner, providing arthropod-themed table decorations, a quiz, and prizes, and this time had chosen a restaurant in their own area. It was, as usual, a great success. The major item in this edition was an article about mosquitoes - the previous month's talk. The speaker was Cameron Webb, still the media's go-to man for any news event featuring mosquitoes. His main advice was that domestic mosquito traps were not really much use. Less known is that Cameron is a Science Superhero and that he has another life as a sound recordist and musician.⁹⁴

2007 started badly when the position of president could not be filled at the AGM. The Circular Editor for the preceding years, Simone McMonigal, also resigned, to travel the country with partner Warrick Angus. We were sorry to lose them. Warrick was a councillor of the Society, and the two of them had organised an excellent barbecue and hands-on visit to Taronga Zoo. Warrick later reported on his experience filming Dawson's Burrowing Bee in Western Australia, with a camera crew working for a David Attenborough series. We see them later at Crocodile Island, winning awards.⁹⁵

The position of Circular Editor was accepted by Graeme Smith. The presidential address (Martin Horwood) again mentioned lack of participation by members and financial stresses on the society. He also mentioned the need for an effective website. The original web manager had gone to live and work in England. Lowan Turton from Agriculture had become the administrator, but the free website was limited in what it could do. We could no longer pay an auditor. Partly because of cost, and partly because of poor attendance, meetings were reduced to alternate months. Following Martin Horwood's presidential comments, Hales wrote a couple of pages summarising some of the challenges faced by the Society and admitted that she had no answers.⁹⁶ Membership was falling, having reached 67, plus the usual unfinancials. But in 2024 we are still going.

2008 provided a turnaround with Barbara May taking on the presidency and all council positions filled.⁹⁷ A full list of presidents appears in Table 2. The new web site, www.entsocnsw.org.au, was up and running, and capable of taking large files. Graeme Smith was doing an excellent job in charge, and the website was filled with interesting

⁹³ *Tarsus* (2006) **566**: 16

⁹⁴ <https://www.chiefscientist.gov.au/2017/04/australian-science-superheroes-cameron-webb>

⁹⁵ https://landcareaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/media_release/MR_Winners_NT-2309.pdf,
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2011-11-16/crocodile-island-rangers-hope-to-snap-up-funding/6175404>

⁹⁶ *Tarsus* (2007) **576**:99-100

⁹⁷ *Tarsus* (2008) **581**:2

material, including *Tarsus* and *General and Applied Entomology*. Some of the less visible members came up with questions, answers, book recommendations and so forth.

Table 2. Presidents of the Entomological Society of NSW (including SES) 1953-2024.
* Jenny Anderson and Barbara May have been the only female presidents.⁹⁸

Name	Year(s)
CE Chadwick	1953-1960
KEW Salter	1961-2
CE Chadwick	1963-1978
AD Clift	1979
JM Anderson*	1980-1981
CN Smithers	1982-1983
MS Moulds	1984- 1985
MJ Fletcher	1986-1987
JA Macdonald	1988-1990
GR Brown	1991-2
AD Clift	1993
AE Westcott	1994-1996
RJ Spooner-Hart	1997-2000
O Nicetic	2001-2003
M Horwood	2004-2006
Vacant	2007
BA May*	2008
R Parsons	2009-2010
Vacant	2011
RF Ryan	2012-2024

The Society held another successful postgraduate student workshop in June 2008 at Charles Sturt University, Orange, and attracted student participants from Charles Sturt, Wollongong, Macquarie and Sydney Universities. University staff and council members were also present. Awards were given for best presentation and scientific illustration.⁹⁹

Tarsus 585 (March 2009) included a summary of a talk by AL Roach of Heritage Pest Management, about conservation of museum specimens of all kinds in the face of insect pests. It was interesting to hear of the role of oxygen-scavenging chemicals in this context. Graeme Smith (announced at a recent Society dinner as the King of the Silverfish, because of his extensive work on the taxonomy of this group) gave an account of an international meeting on subterranean biology, held in Fremantle and including cave excursions. Silverfish like caves. At the AGM the major positions had been filled, with Robin Parsons as President, Martin Horwood, Vice President, Mary-Ann Terras as secretary, Ted Taylor as Treasurer, Gith Strid-Nwulaekwe as Business Manager, but only one Councillor. Issue 586 (May 2009) contained a paper from Garry Webb on invasive ant species, and Garry Levot reported the

⁹⁸ The membership numbers have always been male-biased, but the rarity of female presidents cannot be regarded as discrimination; there were certainly years when anyone could have stepped forward to hold this office. The paucity of women is more likely due to lack of experience and confidence in management.

⁹⁹ *Tarsus* (2008) 583:24-25

publication of Vol. 37 of *General and Applied Entomology*, after a gap in the series. And so it continued, with reports on meetings, summaries from speakers, show and tell, and now also, questions from the public. We hope they all got answers of some kind. One of the questions came from a member of the public who pointed out superficial similarities between prawns and insects. Having taught Invertebrate Zoology for some years, DFH looked up the latest molecular phylogeny and was amazed to find that insects were considered by the authors to be crustaceans, in the Pancrustacea, and that what we had considered to be primitive crustaceans were in fact primitive insects.¹⁰⁰

Garry Levot was editor of *General and Applied Entomology* from 2000 to 2010, when Robin Gunning took on the job. For a few years, the Society had elected a separate Taxonomic Editor (Bickel, Westcott), but after these members left the Society the experiment was discontinued.

Tarsus 593 (September 2010) was a bumper issue including an account of Andrew Beattie's work on citrus, a long article from a non-member on observations of the development and identification of a rarely recorded moth and a number of show-and-tells from the previous meeting. Graeme Smith was the Circular Editor, and Mark Stevens the Business Manager. There were three councillors, so not quite a full council. *Tarsus* 593 also announced the publication of the 2010 issue of the journal (*General and Applied Entomology*, 39), with Robin Gunning as the new editor. She deserves the "forever" title, none more so, as she is still carrying out this role.

But 2011 saw another period of impending crisis as membership declined and council positions were difficult to fill. The President (Parsons) and Circular Editor (Smith) had indicated that they were standing down and there were no volunteers to take up their roles at the AGM. Bob Ryan, however, a councillor in the previous year, became Vice-President. The retiring president, like Martin Horwood before him, wondered whether this should be the end. Meetings were no longer to be held at Ermington.¹⁰¹ With no Circular Editor, no issues of *Tarsus* were produced for the remainder of the year. A summary of successful site visits during 2011 was given by Bob Ryan in his vice-presidential address.¹⁰² Bob became president at the beginning of 2012. Again a year passed with no Circular Editor, but issue 598 appeared in March 2013, prepared by Graeme Smith although he had stepped down from the editor's role.

During 2016, the Society's journal *General and Applied Entomology* commenced online publication to the membership of papers on acceptance, though for some years members also received a hard copy of the full journal when officially published.

In 2017, the Society suffered a heavy blow with the sudden death in April of our wonderful treasurer, Ted Taylor. An obituary appeared in the Society's journal.¹⁰³ A proposal was received for a student prize to be named the Ted Taylor Prize, and this subsequently came into being, with Nigel Andrew (Vice President) as coordinator.

The pattern of *Tarsus* 602 (February 2017) was similar to those of previous years, as a single business report, generally indicating an understaffed Council and a gradual fall in membership. This is not to say that the Society had no activities - it still did the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower festival (Gitte chief organiser). The annual dinner was a constant item on the calendar: Mary-Lynne Taylor continued to organise it after Ted's passing, and DFH took over Ted's role of quiz person. We continued to publish the journal, and had occasional visits, but no longer had the bimonthly meetings with speakers. Attendance had become so weak that it was embarrassing to the Society and both disrespectful and disappointing to speakers who had put time into preparing their presentations. Annual reports mentioned a decline in membership and an absence of contributions to *Tarsus*. The latter was not surprising since there was no editor to whom contributions could be sent.

In November 2017, President Bob Ryan sent the following letter to members.

¹⁰⁰ *Tarsus* (2010) 591:4

¹⁰¹ *Tarsus* (2011) 596:2

¹⁰² *Tarsus* (2012) 597:3-5

¹⁰³ Hales, D.F. (2017) *General & Applied Entomology* 45: Page number not available.

Dear Member,

The Entomological Society of NSW [EntSoc NSW] was founded some 65 years ago (1953) with the aims of advancement and dissemination of entomological knowledge in all its aspects. This was achieved through regular meetings and the production of both a newsletter and a Journal.

In the 1980's the large number of entomologists employed at the Department of Agriculture at Rydalmere acted as a strong nucleus which became the geographical hub of the Society. With the closure of the Rydalmere facility and the dispersion of entomologists throughout the state, the Society entered a long period of decline. Meetings with speakers were reduced to bi-monthly events. The Circular was produced after each meeting with the speakers talk and the Journal produced annually. In spite of having good speakers, the time pressures of modern life and the difficulty of members getting to meetings meant that numbers attending meetings declined to a level where we could not justify inviting speakers. The Circular became an annual electronic publication just prior to the AGM and activities of the Society declined to a Christmas party, a stall at the Ku-Ring-Gai Wildflower festival and the AGM. The Journal however continued to thrive and is valued by members as a means to publish their work. Membership is reducing as members pass away or change their priorities and new membership applications are negligible. The digital age has greatly altered the way people interact.

The Council has reached the stage that we do not see a future for the Society as it stands and will propose at the 2018 AGM that the Council wind up the affairs of the Society. The 2018 issue [Vol. 46] of General & Applied Entomology [GAE] will be the last to be produced.

A postal vote in response to this recommendation will be sent to members during 2018. In the absence of any member nominating to take over the Presidency of the ESNSW at the 2018 AGM, the current Council will form a working group to manage an orderly closure of the Society's affairs. Any assets remaining at the end of this period will be distributed to Societies with similar objectives as those of the EntSoc NSW (e.g. the Australian Entomological Society).

In Summary:

At the 8th Nov'17 Council Meeting a motion to close the EntSoc NSW was passed unanimously.

This decision by Council needs to be ratified by current EntSoc NSW members. The first stage is to communicate to EntSoc NSW members this decision and inform members this proposal will be a motion at the 2018 AGM (Mar'18: proxies will be accepted). If EntSoc closure motion is approved, a ballot will be sent to EntSoc NSW members to formalise the termination of the EntSoc NSW.

If the motion to close is approved by a minimum 2/3rd of the members who cast a vote, the Council will finalise the transfer of assets to another like-minded Society. The Final GAE Journal will be Volume #46 (the GAE Editor is now accepting papers for Vol. 46 which has a proposed publication date in second half of 2018). The recommended EntSoc termination and asset transfer is proposed to be finalised in 2018.

This decision is not taken lightly and has been on the EntSoc meeting agendas for a number of years, the concern was always the retention of the GAE Journal. This decision will prompt the EntSoc Council to make it best endeavours to transfer the GAE Journal to a Society with similar objectives as those of EntSoc NSW (e.g. The Australian Entomological Society) before terminating the GAE Journal.

Robert Ryan,
EntSoc NSW President
11 November, 2017.

The death of Ted Taylor had been a great loss to the Society, but the membership seemed to have been electrified into some kind of action, and the major positions on Council were filled, Robin Parsons taking on Ted's position as Treasurer. Council withdrew its plan to wind up the Society. The position of Circular Editor remained vacant and a few issues were produced by DFH as acting editor. Had the phoenix risen again? Not quite. Late in 2018, Hales and Smith gave notice of another motion to wind up the Society. This came about because of the resignation of some of the new Council members, for reasons of work, health, or other projects taking priority. Unexpectedly, at the 2019 AGM at Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club all major council positions were filled, with Garry Webb taking the role of

Tarsus Editor. Hales withdrew the motion, and the council has continued with little change until the present, with excellent *Tarsus* editions coming out on schedule under Garry's management. Thomas Heddle as Assistant Editor of *Tarsus* combined this work with finishing his PhD. Some members, however, were overloaded with the need to take on more than one role and assist newcomers in pivotal positions on Council. Treasurer Robin Parsons was outstanding in his efforts to maintain a functioning Society and was later offered life membership for his contributions.

2020-2022 were the years of COVID. Council learned to do Zoom meetings with Professor Nigel Andrew (Vice President) as host, but even these were poorly attended. *Tarsus* appeared regularly, full of interesting links and local news, and the journal continued thanks to the long-serving editor, Dr Robin Gunning.

In the middle of 2024, the Society's continuing President, Bob Ryan, died suddenly at home. A eulogy by RP appeared in *Tarsus*¹⁰⁴ and an obituary by DFH and RP appeared *Myrmecia*, the news bulletin of the Australian Entomological Society (November 2024).¹⁰⁵

A Zoom meeting in September 2024 of Council and associates exhibited little confidence in the Society's future. It was well-known that many scientific and other societies, even the Australian Entomological Society, were experiencing loss of members (one such Sydney-based society was described to the first author as "the walking dead"). The young people of the late 1970s and early 1980s are now old people in their late 70s or early 80s. We do have some excellent younger people and would be delighted to see them volunteering to take up roles on Council.

There is a tendency among professional scientists to put their efforts into discipline-based societies (e.g. Genetics, Ecology) rather than taxon-based ones. It was recognised also that our Society had, for some years, had little to offer its members other than *Tarsus* and the opportunity to publish in *GAE*. Valuable as these are, a Society cannot exist without the engagement of its general membership. Frequent pleas for contributions to *Tarsus* and *GAE* and to take positions on Council have failed to elicit much activity. An organisation persists as long as there is a need for it. Perhaps, in its 72nd year, there is no longer a need for the Entomological Society of NSW and it may be near its end.

But we have said this before.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This history would not have been possible without the almost complete set of printed circulars provided by Max Moulds, who also gave us material accumulated by the late Barry Salkilld. The online issues of *Tarsus* (various editors) appear on the Society's website in an almost complete series. Thanks to all the editors who have worked so hard to provide and circulate this historical record of the Society's life, and to the website administrators who have made *Tarsus* available on line. Don Sands, Len Willan, Murray Fletcher, Graham Owen, Robin Gunning, Alan Westcott, Gitte Strid-Nwulaekwe, Robert Spooner-Hart, Harley Rose and Andrew Beattie provided personal recollections, the first two dating back to the early days in Ken Fairey's society.

It has been a pleasure and sometimes a sadness to revisit the history of the Society - good times, good friends - too many of them no longer with us. Lots of younger people who, we hope, are having successful careers. Times of prosperity, times of darkness.

It seems proper to sign off in the style of the 1950s: Dr. D. F. Hales, B. Sc. (Hons. 1), Ph. D., Grad. Dip. L. A. H., formerly of Macquarie University, and Mr. Robin Parsons, Public Officer and Treasurer of the Entomological Society of New South Wales

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¹⁰⁴ *Tarsus* (2024) **635**: 2-3.

¹⁰⁵ *Myrmecia* (2024) **60**: (4): 7-8.