

The evolution of a national entomological society in Australia. J. Aust. Ent. Soc. 11:81-90.

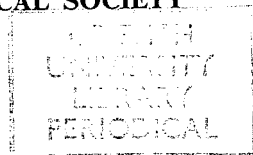
*The evolution of a national entomological society in Australia* is copyright by E. N. Marks and I. M. Mackerras 1972.

Permission granted by the Griffith University Library and the executors of the estate of Dr Elizabeth Nesta Marks for display of this publication on the QUT SERF website.

# THE EVOLUTION OF A NATIONAL ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY IN AUSTRALIA

BY E. N. MARKS\* and I. M. MACKERRAST†

[Manuscript received May 23, 1972]



## Abstract

The first entomological society in Australia was the Entomological Society of New South Wales (1862-73). Between 1921 and 1972 there have been one entomological society in Queensland; one in Victoria; and three (under five names) in New South Wales, of which two survive. Ultimate formation of a national society was policy in Queensland for many years and in N.S.W. for a decade. In 1962-65 a series of meetings, questionnaires and reports led to the formation of the Australian Entomological Society in August 1965. In 1967 the Entomological Society of Queensland transferred its Journal to the new society.

## INTRODUCTION

The successful establishment of any specialist scientific society depends, firstly, on the presence of a stimulus, a real need that is not being met; secondly, on the coming together of a few people with wisdom and tenacity to see the project through; and thirdly, on the support of a large enough membership to ensure viability. If it is to be a national society, it must also, at least in modern times, have sufficient standing to be listened to attentively at national and international level, and in Australia it has two other problems to solve. One is the administrative problem of a membership distributed round the periphery of the continent, with concentrations in seven centres from 250 to 2700 km apart; the other a special problem that follows from the political history of the country.

Australia was first settled in 1788, when Sydney was founded and the Colony of New South Wales proclaimed. By 1859 the six present States were all independent, self-governing colonies of Britain. There were strong rivalries between the colonies, their capital cities, their institutions, and their citizens. Later, common problems of defence, trade, immigration and quarantine led to their federation in 1901 as Sovereign States of the Commonwealth of Australia. The Commonwealth Parliament gradually acquired greater powers and wealth, and after the 1939-45 war the national capital, Canberra, and its governmental and educational institutions expanded rapidly.

Superimposed, then, on the traditional rivalries between the two wealthiest and most populous States, New South Wales and Victoria, and jealousies between other States and these two, are the suspicions that all States have of the power and wealth and acquisitiveness of the Commonwealth and its institutions. How all this may affect the development of a national entomological society will be apparent in what follows.

## THE FIRST ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY IN AUSTRALIA

The first Australian insects were collected by Banks and Solander at Botany Bay in April 1770, and the first publication on Australian entomology was by Fabricius in 1775. More collections from expeditions and residents went to Europe in the next ninety years (Musgrave 1930), and the desires of educated colonists to foster the acquisition and application of scientific knowledge were met by broadly based Philosophical Societies, or equivalent bodies, that developed in the growing colonies. Specialization, in anything resembling the modern sense, did not exist.

Fletcher (1893) recorded that up to 1860 there had not been a locally published original contribution to Australian entomology from any resident naturalist, and

\*Department of Entomology, University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Queensland, 4067.

†Division of Entomology, C.S.I.R.O., Canberra, A.C.T. 2601.

the lack of an appropriate medium for publication was probably one reason why the Entomological Society of New South Wales became the first specialist scientific society to be established in Australia. On 7 April 1862 a meeting of a few gentlemen interested in entomology was held at W. J. (later Sir William) Macleay's residence in Sydney, when the desirability of founding a local entomological society was affirmed. It held its first formal meeting on 5 May 1862, with Macleay as President, and its last in July 1873, and it published two volumes of *Transactions* (Vol. 1 1863-66, Vol. 2, 1869-73). The Society proved to be premature, for the membership of about 50 included zoologists with wider interests, and it was apparent that a body covering a broader field was needed. The Entomological Society was succeeded in October 1874 by the Linnean Society of New South Wales, which likewise received Macleay's generous support. The Linnean Society (devoted to zoology, botany and geology), together with the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales (founded in 1879, but not publishing until 1914), the Royal Society in each colony, and local Field Naturalists' Clubs met the needs of entomologists, both for meetings and publication, until after the 1914-18 war. Some of the societies had entomological sections when interest warranted it, and both the Linnean Society and at least some of the Royal Societies accepted papers from any of the colonies, but there was still no stimulus to form a national body.

### THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

Nearly sixty years after Macleay, the first man to perceive, or at least to express, the need for an Australian entomological society was undoubtedly the dipterist, G. H. Hardy. An Englishman reared with a love of entomology but directed against his inclination to train as an engineer, he arrived in Perth in 1911, where he spent his spare time collecting insects and studying them in the Western Australian Museum. This led to his appointment as Assistant Curator of the Tasmanian Museum from 1913 to 1917. Subsequently he spent four years in Sydney, and from 1922 to 1934 as Walter and Eliza Hall Fellow in Economic Biology in the University of Queensland (Chadwick 1967). Hardy (1965) wrote that, when he left Perth and came to Adelaide in the summer of 1912-13, he began asking why there was no entomological society in Australia, and he had talks with entomologists in many places in subsequent years.

Thus, when Hardy reached Brisbane, he had a good knowledge of the practice of entomology in the other States. At his invitation, a meeting of 16 entomologists and others interested was held at his Brisbane home on 16 March 1923. He drew attention to the benefits that could be secured by having in Australia a periodical devoted entirely to entomology, presented a table showing the distribution of entomologists within the Commonwealth (reproduced here as Table 1, which should be compared with Table 2 in Waterhouse 1971, p. 151), and emphasized that Queensland was favourably placed to begin a movement to form a society of all Australian entomologists. The meeting, however, decided that it was more advisable to form a local society with the formation of an Entomological Society of Australia as one of its chief objectives.

A meeting on 14 June 1923 approved a constitution which included the statement: "The Entomological Society, Brisbane, is formed for the furtherance of pure and applied Entomological Science. It will be one of the main objects of the Society to invite the co-operation of other Entomologists and Scientific bodies with a view to the eventual formation of an Entomological Society of Australia." This was to remain one of its objects for 42 years. Because of this Society's deep involvement in the foundation of the national body, we should look briefly at the sources of its strength.

Not least was the influence of its three foundation Officers who served together for almost six years. According to Hardy (1965), who was Treasurer, he contributed ideas on policy, but the President, E. J. Goddard, and Secretary, J. L. Froggatt, did all the real work. Froggatt was an entomologist in the Department of Agriculture. Goddard, recently appointed Professor of Biology in the University of Queensland, was keen to promote agricultural biology. He was an impressive speaker who liked things done with style and a flourish of publicity, and the first

TABLE 1  
(Compiled in 1923 by G. H. Hardy)

## STATISTICAL TABLE OF COMMONWEALTH ENTOMOLOGISTS

PROFESSIONAL	Qld.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Tas.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.
Prickly Pear Board .. ..	9	—	—	—	—	—
Agricultural Department ..	10	3	2	1	2(?)	2
Museum .. .. .	1	2	1	—	2	—
University .. .. .	2	1	—	—	—	—
Health Department .. ..	1	—	—	—	—	—
<b>NON-PROFESSIONAL</b>						
Those writing important papers	2	6	—	—	2	—
Those engaged in other classes of work .. .. .	2	4	—	—	2	—
<b>STATE TOTAL</b> .. .. .	<b>27</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5 (sic)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>COMMONWEALTH TOTAL</b> ..				<b>59</b>		

Annual Meeting in March 1924, when membership was 17, was attended by almost twice that number and chaired by the Minister for Agriculture. Goddard provided a meeting place for the Society in his Department (an arrangement continued ever since) and arranged for all typing to be done in it; expenses, and hence subscriptions, were thus kept low.

The membership included both professionals and amateurs, and the enjoyable informality of meetings, with their wide-ranging discussions of exhibits continuing over supper, attracted a good attendance. The constitution was altered in 1924 to admit undergraduates to associate membership and in 1925 to admit country members, both at reduced fees. R. J. Tillyard, G. A. Waterhouse, G. Lyell and W. B. Gurney became the first interstate country members of the Society. In September 1926 its name was changed to the Entomological Society of Queensland. From an early date full mimeographed minutes of meetings were circulated to all members, thus maintaining the interest of those who could not attend. From March 1964 these were issued as "News Bulletins", which have been offset printed since March 1969.

Also in 1926 F. A. Perkins became Lecturer in Entomology in the Biology Department and had charge of teaching the subject until his retirement in 1965. A man with a wide knowledge of insects in the field and a friendly, approachable manner, he not only played a leading role in Society affairs and gave it his Department's support, but he also transmitted his enthusiasm for entomology to his students; as a matter of course they became associate members, and many continued membership after they had entered other professions.

In 1927 the question of moving for the formation of an Entomological Society of Australia was raised again, and Council appointed a Committee, which sent a circular letter to 17 entomologists in other States, New Zealand and Fiji. This suggested that the time had arrived when "the efficiency of Entomological activities and the welfare of Entomological Science would be much enhanced by the formation of an Australian (or Australasian) Entomological Society", and that the possibility of Australia (or Australasia) publishing an entomological journal should be considered. It was thought that a membership of 200 would make a quarterly publication of 50 pages practicable. Suggestions for organization envisaged State Branches and a Council constituted of representatives in the various States, but the main part of the Council and the Chief Editor to be resident in one capital city, and annual meetings to be in each capital in turn. Recipients of the letter were asked to obtain an expression of opinion from local entomologists and, if favourable, the names of individuals qualified for and prepared to accept membership. Country members of the Society living in Sydney were also asked to bring

the matter before the Entomological Section of the Royal Zoological Society of N.S.W. and any other bodies likely to give attention to it.

Entomologists in Victoria and some others favoured the proposal, but those in New South Wales were unresponsive. Publication of a journal was an essential prerequisite for success, but all attempts to obtain funds to support it failed. The Annual Report in March 1929 stated that the main difficulties were "the lack of support in some Southern States, and the lack of finances for publication", and there the project ended.

The Society also discussed the possibility of publishing its own journal at various times over the following years. In 1953 the Council appointed a Publication Committee to examine the question, and it reported that it would be unwise for the Society to commit itself to launching a new scientific publication until prospects of permanent success were brighter. In 1960, when the Society had 115 members and a credit balance of £432, Council appointed a subcommittee (A. R. Brimblecombe, B. R. Champ, A. W. S. May, T. E. Woodward) to consider how best to utilize the funds. Its report, circulated in December, explored the possibility of publication very thoroughly, answered the objections of the 1953 committee, set out definite proposals for the organization and procedure needed to establish a publication, and estimated costs. It recommended that a questionnaire be sent to members and amendments to the Constitution drafted, and its final recommendation was: "If the Journal eventuates and if at some time in the future an Entomological Society of Australia is formed and such a Society envisages a publication, consideration should be given to merging the Queensland Journal into such newly formed Journal."

The incoming President, B. R. Champ, reported to the Annual Meeting in March 1961 that a majority of replies to the questionnaire approved the proposals, and that there were prospects of financial support from advertisers in a journal. The meeting adopted the principle of establishing a publication, a Special Meeting on 8 May 1961 revised the Constitution to increase ordinary members' subscriptions and to require publication of an annual Journal, and Council appointed a Publications Committee with B. R. Champ as Editor. The first volume of the *Journal of the Entomological Society of Queensland* was published on 12 March 1962.

#### THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

In Melbourne on 5 April 1927, 11 persons attended the inaugural meeting of the Entomological Club held at the home of F. Erasmus Wilson, an amateur coleopterist and honorary worker at the National Museum of Victoria. He was elected President and T. Greaves Secretary. Membership included amateurs and professionals. Monthly meetings at first were at members' homes but when numbers grew a room was obtained. The name was changed in 1930 to the Entomologists' Club of Victoria and in 1935 to the Entomological Society of Victoria and in 1936 a constitution was adopted. The Society had no publication except for a single newsletter dated 31 August 1942. From 1941 to 1943 frequent excursions were held but as the 1939-45 war progressed membership declined and the last meeting was on 3 June 1943. A meeting in April 1961 decided to revive it, and the first meeting on 26 May 1961 re-adopted the old constitution and elected J. C. le Souef President and G. Rushworth Secretary. The Society has continued since that time, and a new constitution was adopted in 1971. The great majority of its present membership of 72 are amateurs. It meets every second month, holds excursions, and produces a mimeographed newsletter. The first issue in August 1965 was called "Wings and Stings", but the name was changed to "The Victorian Entomologist" Vol. 1, No. 1 in October 1971.

#### ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETIES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

In contrast to the relative stability in Queensland and Victoria, a whole series of societies waxed and waned and changed their names in New South Wales in the forty years between 1921 and 1962. It does not appear that there were any entomological societies in South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania or the Territories during this period.

The Entomological Section of the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales was established in October 1921 by G. A. Waterhouse, a lepidopterist who had played a prominent role in the parent Society. Waterhouse was Chairman, G. M. Goldfinch Secretary, and most of the members were also members of the Linnean Society of New South Wales in which they had frequent opportunities for entomological discussion. The section was highly successful, and meetings, at first every second month, were being held monthly by 1925. In 1929 some of its most active members moved away from Sydney, attendances fell, and the section was discontinued after 1930. It was re-established in 1957 by L. C. Haines as Chairman and M. H. Gregg as Secretary, and has continued since with a predominantly amateur membership. Mimeographed Communications Nos. 1-17 were issued between 1961 and 1964.

In July 1947 an Australian Branch of the (British) Amateur Entomologists' Society was started by K. D. Fairey, a timber entomologist in New South Wales. The Secretary was Miss E. C. Chugg of Melbourne, Fairey was Editor and Organizer, and, as members were scattered through several States, no meetings were held for some time. From 1950 to 1952 meetings were held in Sydney and the first President was L. H. Mosse-Robinson. The following mimeographed publications were produced: "A.E.S.-A.B. Bulletin" Vol. 1, Nos. 1-14, 1947-48, Vol. 2, Nos. 15-25, 1950-51, and "The Australasian Entomologist", Vol. 1, Parts i and ii, 1949, Part iii, 1951.

In 1952 the organization changed its name to the Entomological Society of New South Wales, with Mosse-Robinson as first President. It held meetings in 1952, 1953 and 1955, and produced a mimeographed "Entomological Notes and News" Vol. 1, Nos. 1-5 and 7, 1952-53; four printed publications, *The Australian Entomologist* Vol. 1, Nos. 1, 2 and Supplement, 1953, and Vol. 1 (New Series), No. 1, 1954; and mimeographed issues Vol. 1 (New Series), Nos. 2-5, 1955. In Vol. 1 (n.s.) No. 5 an anonymous article on "How can we advance entomology in Australia?" suggested, *inter alia*: "If not a Federation of Australian societies, then a very close liaison between them." This Society did not function after 1955 (though an unsuccessful attempt was made to start it again in 1959), and some of its members later formed the revived Entomological Section of the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales.

During 1952 a breakaway group from this essentially amateur society discussed formation of a different society. Following a small preliminary meeting in December 1952 (at which G. H. Hardy was present), the inaugural meeting of the Society of Entomologists, Sydney, attended by 52 persons, was held on 20 February 1953. One of the aims expressed in the original minutes was to effect formation of an Australia-wide organization of entomologists. Foundation membership was 95. C. E. Chadwick, the first and current (1972) President, has held that office in most of the intervening years, and N. Turner was the first Secretary. Membership includes both professionals and amateurs with a strong representation from those engaged in industry, and the Society has continued to meet monthly and to issue mimeographed monthly circulars with reports of meetings; excursions are held during the summer. In 1953-54, the idea of publishing a journal was considered, but abandoned. It was raised again in 1961, the October meeting established a publication fund, and in September 1962 the Society decided to publish a journal.

In December 1962 it was decided to change the name of the Society to the Entomological Society of Australia (N.S.W.), "which would indicate the scope of the Society's membership and that it had a basis in New South Wales" and "would allow autonomous societies in other States to make use of a corresponding name and foster the ultimate formation of an Australia-wide body" (Chadwick 1965). The decision was ratified at a Special Meeting on 18 January 1963, the membership of the Society then being 115, including 12 Company associate members. Volume 1 of the *Journal of the Entomological Society of Australia (N.S.W.)* was published on 1 July 1964, and annual issues have been maintained since.

## FOUNDATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Thus, by 1962 four entomological societies were functioning in Australia—the Entomological Society of Queensland (publishing), the Entomological Section of the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales, the Society of Entomologists, Sydney (expecting to publish), and the Entomological Society of Victoria. Establishment of a national society had been the policy of the Queensland Society for 39 years, contemplated in New South Wales for at least nine years, and recently considered at Commonwealth level, for D. F. Waterhouse had reported to the Conference of Commonwealth and State Entomologists in October 1961 that the Division of Entomology, CSIRO, had begun to compile a Register of Australian Entomologists, one of the objects being “to determine probable support for an Australian Entomologists’ Society, if general opinion favoured such an organization”.

But opinion was not enough. A journal had been established and local needs had been largely met, at least in the eastern States, so why go further? There were many cogent reasons.

Publication was an important one. There were grave doubts that Australia could support more than one purely entomological journal of world standard, and it would necessarily draw on the whole country for its material. Moreover, printing costs were rising steeply, all publishing societies were in difficulties, and there were equally grave doubts whether a local society could carry the burden unless, like the Linnean Society of New South Wales, it became a *de facto* national society in its own field. Then again, the past decade had brought a sharp increase in the number and magnitude of national scientific questions—quarantine, conservation, hazards to the environment, and so on—on which entomologists should be able to speak with a united, authoritative voice. There were relations to be established with the Australian Academy of Science and cemented with the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science (ANZAAS). There was the possibility that an International Congress of Entomology might come to Australia. Locally, there were still many entomologists, mostly professional, who did not belong to any of the existing societies for geographical or other reasons, and there was also a growing desire to bring entomologists from different parts of Australia together for scientific discussion and exchange of information more effectively than was possible at ANZAAS congresses. National societies in other disciplines had multiplied after the 1939-45 war for much the same reasons, and their undoubted success was encouraging.

Here, then, were abundant reasons for action, although not many saw them clearly at that time. Two who did were C. N. Smithers in Sydney and B. R. Champ in Queensland.

Coming from Rhodesia to the Australian Museum, Sydney, in 1960, Smithers was surprised to find no national Australian society comparable to the Entomological Society of Southern Africa. The Director of the Museum, J. W. Evans, who was Australian representative on the Permanent Committee of the International Congresses of Entomology, supported the view that a national body was needed, and Smithers began compiling a list of Australian entomologists. In 1962 Evans discussed the question with Champ, who was acutely aware of the financial problems facing the Entomological Society of Queensland in relation to publication. It had never been the policy of the Society that it should itself become the national society, although it did envisage its journal as the forerunner of a national journal. It could only safeguard its position by expanding its membership throughout Australia, an action which it hoped might also accelerate the formation of a national society. Smithers gave a copy of his list of entomologists to the Queensland Society, which was preparing to send out a circular letter setting out the circumstances, inviting applications for membership, and asking for comments. The letter was widely distributed in September 1962, and membership increased by more than 70 per cent over the next two years, many who applied expressing keen interest in the possibility of an Australian society.

In the meantime, Smithers and Champ decided to arrange a meeting of entomologists during the ANZAAS Congress in Sydney in August 1962. The meeting was attended by 30 entomologists from various parts of Australia, chaired by C. N. Smithers, and the discussion was particularly vigorous. "State rights" and territorial claims on membership were very much to the fore. The meeting nevertheless decided to ask the Entomological Society of Queensland to canvass the opinions of entomologists throughout Australia and report to a meeting to be arranged at the next ANZAAS congress in Canberra in January 1964.

The agreement of the Entomological Society of Queensland to conduct the enquiry decided on in Sydney and its drive for interstate members convinced the Society of Entomologists, Sydney that the Queensland Society intended to become the Entomological Society of Australia. It therefore decided to protect its own interests by sending out a circular in October 1962, expressing the view that the existing societies in the three States should be recognized on an equal footing and become completely autonomous branches of the proposed Australia-wide organization; by changing its name in December to the Entomological Society of Australia (N.S.W.); and by pressing on with publication of its journal. 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.

The Entomological Society of Queensland spent considerable time in checking the list of entomologists in Australia and the Territory of Papua-New Guinea (including workers in other disciplines whose activities impinged significantly on entomology), adding new names to it, and framing a comprehensive questionnaire, which it sent to 590 individuals in November 1963. Replies were received from 176, of whom 166 favoured and 6 were against the formation of an Australia-wide entomological society. They also voted 160 to 5 for publishing a journal, 143 to 14 for meeting in association with ANZAAS (as did most other specialist societies), and 128 to 7 for the society to represent Australia internationally. Of 127 members of existing societies, 105 would continue their membership if these societies remained separate.

The Queensland Society reported its findings to a meeting of 43 entomologists, chaired by K. H. L. Key, in Canberra in January 1964. Two principal resolutions were carried:

- (a) That an Australia-wide entomological society be formed.
- (b) That a working party, comprising T. O. Browning, J. W. Evans, I. M. Mackerras and D. F. Waterhouse, be appointed to prepare a draft constitution in consultation with the existing societies and individual entomologists, and to report to a meeting to be called in association with the ANZAAS Congress at Hobart in August 1965.

The working party, all of whom were senior entomologists with experience in the organization and administration of national bodies, was immediately faced with major practical questions of functions (p. 86), viability, management and finance, few of which had received more than superficial consideration in earlier discussions. It also had to consider the four existing entomological societies, the considerable number of professional entomologists who were not members of any of them, and the opinions that had been expressed about the possible structure of the national society in answers to a set of additional questions asked by the Entomological Society of Queensland. These were that it might be:

	For	Against
An affiliation of autonomous local societies .. .. .	68	25
A federation of semi-autonomous local societies .. .. .	49	41
Independent, but local societies to be corporate members .. .. .	47	40
Completely independent of local societies .. .. .	39	44

The working party first came to the conclusion that simple affiliation of autonomous societies could not ensure stability and permanence of the national body,\*

\*In February 1965 the Entomological Society of Australia (N.S.W.) circulated an "Outline of Constitution" for a society formed by affiliation, but it overcame none of the weaknesses that the working party had found in its analysis of the problem.



and the exclusion of locally based societies (though practicable) was equally unsatisfactory. It therefore proceeded to examine the possibility of federation. It prepared the framework of a potentially viable federal organization, which immediately revealed that viability was inseparable from substantial sacrifices by the local societies. At this stage it made a detailed analysis of the position and took it to the societies and individual entomologists for advice. The answer that emerged (only the Entomological Society of Australia (N.S.W.) dissenting) was that there should, in fact, be an independent national society, completely viable in itself, but with provision for affiliation of existing and future local societies under conditions that would give them a significant influence in its activities at a minimum of cost to themselves.

In April 1965 the working party sent a report of its proceedings, a draft constitution based on the principles outlined above, a questionnaire, and (as a first test of viability) a form of application for membership of the proposed society to the four societies and 581 entomologists in Australia and the Territory of Papua-New Guinea. The Entomological Society of Queensland, Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales and Entomological Society of Victoria approved of the proposed organization, indicated their willingness to affiliate with it, and provided a list of their members; the Entomological Society of Australia (N.S.W.) rejected the proposal and refused to provide a list of members. Of the 298 individuals who replied, 256 applied for membership, 28 indicated general approval, and 14 disapproved. Several made suggestions for machinery improvements in the draft constitution.

These findings could not be ignored. The first requirement for viability had been met, and it was clear that the objections of one society should not be allowed to prevent a development that was desired by so many entomologists. The major remaining problem, rationalization of publication, also seemed likely to resolve itself, for the Entomological Society of Queensland had already indicated that it would consider amalgamating its *Journal* with a national one (pp. 84, 86), and the first issue of *J. ent. Soc. Aust. (N.S.W.)* suggested that it would be largely concerned with fields in which competition between the two journals would not be acute.

The working party therefore sent out a second report on 5 July 1965, in which it detailed its findings by States and Territories, confirmed the arrangements for a meeting in Hobart, listed the recommendations it would make, and summarized the amendments that had been suggested for the draft constitution. It also gave the name of an individual in each capital city, who had agreed to report the views of entomologists who could not attend the meeting.

The inaugural meeting of the Australian Entomological Society was duly held at Hobart on 17 August 1965, with I. M. Mackerras (convenor of the working party) in the chair and 28 applicants for foundation membership and four visitors present. Applications for foundation membership at that date numbered 285. The proceedings were recorded on discs which are held in the Society's records. Motions were carried, without dissent, to establish the Society and its name, to adopt the provisional constitution as amended, and to establish the first headquarters of the Society in Brisbane. The following provisional Officers were elected:

President, I. M. Mackerras, F.A.A., F.R.E.S.  
 Vice President (and Chairman of Executive), Elizabeth N. Marks, F.R.E.S.  
 Secretary, A. W. S. May  
 Treasurer, G. H. S. Hooper  
 Editor, B. R. Champ, F.R.E.S.

It was reported that the first News Bulletin of the Society would be issued in November 1965, and that the first Annual General Meeting, at which the definitive Officers and Council would be elected, would be held in association with the ANZAAS Congress in Melbourne in January 1967.

The working party completed its task by reporting the proceedings of the inaugural meeting to the existing societies and all who had answered its questionnaire. The President of the new society was very pleased to receive a letter of good wishes from the Entomological Society of Australia (N.S.W.).

## PROGRESS 1965-1972

Having arrived at a general structure approved by most interested entomologists in the country, the Provisional Constitution of the Australian Entomological Society was framed to meet the special needs and conditions that have been outlined on earlier pages. It was amended from time to time by the Executive to meet contingencies that had not been foreseen, but remained generally effective until replaced by a Definitive Constitution providing for legal incorporation of the Society in 1971. The question is: how did it work?

*Administration.*—Until 1971 the Society was governed by six Officers (of whom three residing in one area were the Executive)\* and a Council drawn from each State, Territory and affiliated Society. Having a small, closely knit, expert Executive, which is required to consult the President and Council on any major questions of policy, has provided the Society with efficient and economical central administration. Certain decisions are reserved for the full meeting of Officers and Council that is held before each Annual General Meeting. The headquarters of the Society remained in Brisbane until 1969, and then moved to Canberra. The definitive Presidents have been M. J. D. White, F.R.S., F.A.A. (1967-69) and D. F. Waterhouse, C.M.G., F.R.S., F.A.A. (1969-72).

*Membership.*—The only local duties required of members are to choose their Councillor (or Councillors), co-operate with the local affiliated Society if there is one, and provide an organizing committee for the scientific part of the Annual General Meeting when it is to be held in their State or Territory. Members in Victoria and Tasmania have held meetings, but there has been no significant development of local activities elsewhere. On the other hand, the "News Bulletin" (which also serves as a vehicle for the quarterly reports of the Executive to the Council, and in this way to the whole Society) has maintained the interest of members in even the remotest places, and the Annual General Meetings, with their scientific sessions of symposia and papers, have been particularly well attended. Membership has risen from 285 in August 1965 to 423 in May 1972, distributed as shown below.

Queensland	94	Victoria	53	Western Australia	19
New South Wales	85	South Australia	25	P.N.G. (18) & N.T. (3)	21
A.C.T.	70	Tasmania	20	Overseas	36

*Effect on other Societies.*—Each affiliated Society appoints a member of Council, receives a copy of the publications, and reports of its activities are included in the "News Bulletin"; it pays an annual subscription, and there are mutual obligations in relation to meetings and excursions. The Entomological Society of Queensland sacrificed its journal, but its membership has increased steadily and its "News Bulletin" has been considerably improved. Membership of the Entomological Society of Victoria has doubled and it has been particularly active among teenagers. The Entomological Section of the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales has maintained normal levels of membership and activity; and the same is apparently true of the unaffiliated Entomological Society of Australia (N.S.W.). No new local entomological society has been formed in the past ten years.

*Publication.*—In accordance with its stated policy, the Entomological Society of Queensland most generously transferred its journal to the Australian Entomological Society. To mark this event, the "new" *Journal of the Australian Entomological Society* began in 1967 as Vol. 6 and included an index to Vols. 1-5. B. R. Champ served as Editor from 1961 to 1972, during which time the journal grew from a single annual issue to a quarterly. The Society has also published a Handbook and a Miscellaneous Publication, and is continuing these series. The *Journal of the Entomological Society of Australia (N.S.W.)* has continued as expected.

\*The Officers were increased from 5 to 6 in 1966, and both Officers and Executive to 7 in 1971.

*General.*—No society has a right to the designation "scientific" if it exists only to serve its members; its prime duty is to the discipline it represents and the community to which it belongs. Thus, the Entomological Society of Queensland has made particular efforts to foster an interest in entomology and reward excellence among secondary and tertiary students, and all the societies have been concerned with national parks and conservation. The Australian Entomological Society has special responsibilities as the national body, and it is steadily endeavouring to meet them. So far, it has followed the Queensland example in education at tertiary and postgraduate levels; appointed standing committees on conservation and environmental quality; appointed a panel which has compiled a Directory of Australian Entomology (to be published as Miscellaneous Publication No. 2); made submissions to the House of Representatives Select Committee on Wildlife Conservation; endeavoured to inform decision makers and administrators about some of the basic facts of animal and plant ecology; and strongly supported the proposal of the Australian Academy of Science for a Biological Survey of Australia. But its most notable and satisfying achievement to date is that it has become joint host with the Australian Academy of Science of the 14th International Congress of Entomology to be held in Canberra in August 1972.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge the help of the Council of the Entomological Society of Queensland in making available its early minute books, and of Messrs. C. E. Chadwick, K. D. Fairey, J. C. Le Souef, C. McCubbin, M. S. Moulds, R. T. M. Pescott and Drs P. B. Carne, B. R. Champ and C. N. Smithers in providing much valuable information and useful comments. We have also had access to unpublished records and reports in the files of the Australian Entomological Society, and Miss S. Beattie very kindly sent us her draft history of the Entomological Society of Victoria.

#### REFERENCES

- CHADWICK, C. E. (1965).—A short history of the Entomological Society of Australia (N.S.W.). *J. ent. Soc. Aust. (N.S.W.)* 2: 50-51.
- CHADWICK, C. E. (1967).—A tribute to G. H. Hardy. I. His career and publications. *J. ent. Soc. Aust. (N.S.W.)* 3: 48-54.
- FLETCHER, J. J. (1893).—The Hon. Sir William Macleay, KT., F.L.S., M.L.C. In J. J. Fletcher (ed) "The Macleay Memorial Volume," pp. VII-LI. (Linnean Society of N.S.W.: Sydney).
- HARDY, G. H. (1965).—The dawn of the Entomological Society of Queensland. *Ent. Soc. Aust. (N.S.W.) Circular* 151, Aug. 1965: 13-15 (mimeograph).
- MUSGRAVE, A. (1930).—The history of Australian entomological research. *Aust. Zool.* 6: 189-203.
- WATERHOUSE, D. F. (1971).—Insects and Australia. *J. Aust. ent. Soc.* 10: 145-160.