

## Chapter 6

# Entomology Comes Downunder: First Time in the Southern Hemisphere, XIV International Congress of Entomology, Canberra, 22–30 August 1972

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The 14th International Congress of Entomology (ICE) was held at the Australian National University in Canberra, the capital city of Australia. It was the first time that ICE had been held in the Southern Hemisphere, thus representing a much longer trip for most overseas visitors to attend. In spite of concerns that this could limit the viability of the congress, a full program was run, attended by 1,097 members from 64 countries (Smithers 1972). The congress program was held August 22–30, 1972. Members stayed in the Australian National University residential colleges, or in other accommodations around Canberra. One distinguished delegate, the Honorable Miriam Rothschild, niece of Lord Walter Rothschild, who championed the early congresses (see Chapter 1) was a special guest of Congress President Douglas (Doug) and Dawn Waterhouse. Miriam reciprocated the hospitality by providing some Rothschild wines of the previous century.

## The Lead Up to the Australian Congress

To understand the impact of this congress, it is necessary to consider changes that were occurring to the organization of Australian entomology in the years before August 1972, when the attendees arrived in Canberra. John Evans, the director of the Australian Museum in Sydney, New South Wales, was a member of the Permanent Committee of the International Congresses of Entomology; and in 1964 at the XII ICE in London, he suggested to the committee that they consider holding the 1972 congress in Australia. Doug Waterhouse, chief of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO Division of Entomology), gave the closing plenary talk at XII ICE in London, describing the range of entomology research in Australia and suggesting to delegates they should visit Australia themselves to see the entomology-related problems to be tackled (Waterhouse 1965).

In 1967, John Evans resigned from the committee; and Doug Waterhouse was elected in his place. At the XIII ICE in Moscow on August 7, 1968, Australia put in a bid; and the Permanent Committee voted to hold the 1972 congress in Canberra, Australia.