

## Chapter 14

# Strength in Diversity: XXII International Congress of Entomology, Brisbane, 15–21 August 2004

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In early 1996, Peter Allen, the Australian Entomological Society vice president, phoned me to ask if I would lead a bid for the society to host the next International Congress of Entomology (ICE). The bid would have to be presented at XX ICE, Florence, in 1996 (see Chapter 12). We had five months to prepare. Various paraphernalia were assembled to be distributed at the Florence congress, to garner support for an Oz bid (Australian). Paul Wellings (chief of Division of Entomology, Commonwealth Science and Industrial Research Organisation [CSIRO]) and I presented the Australian bid to the Council. We had already put a bid document together, as required, highlighting why ICE should come to Australia again. On the fateful day in 1996, we were ushered into a glass room atop the Palazzo dei Congressi to meet the Council; and with the skyline of Florence silhouetted by a setting sun as a back-drop, we presented the bid. The Council, however, decided to hold the next ICE in Brazil (see Chapter 13) because South America had not previously held a congress; but we were encouraged to rebid in 2000.

Having so many people put in all that effort, I went back to the Australian Entomological Society (AES) seeking support for another bid to be presented at the XXI ICE in Iguazu, Brazil. We had four years to prepare. The bid was presented by Jim Cullen, Jane Wright, and me; and this time we were successful: The next International Congress of Entomology (XXII ICE) would be held in Brisbane, Australia.

## The Organization and Set Up

Australia has a small population of entomologists, so attendance by full-fee-paying delegates was going to be essential. With support from Brisbane Tourism, we traveled to the United States and spruiked Australia as a place to visit—handed out countless tiny koalas (made in China) and kangaroo pins. Wearing a Drizabone hat, I was given time and space by the Entomological Society of America (ESA) to advertise XXII ICE. We were hunting delegates.

Carilion Conference Management was selected as the PCO (professional conference organizers) for the event. They were a “small” but highly effective local family-run business—two brothers, Ashley and Jon Gordon.