

# LINN S C NEWS

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## IN THIS ISSUE

Report from past recipient of research grants.....	1
Proceedings of the Linnean Society of NSW.....	2
Articles published in volume 141.....	2
Snippets from the past: .....	2
Announcement.....	3
Tax break.....	5

## REPORT FROM RECIPIENT OF RESEARCH GRANTS

It is a condition of an award that the recipient reports the results to the Society. Some have had their work published and others are preparing papers for publications.

Dr Anthony **WRIGHT** (2017 Betty Mayne recipient) Title of project: The coral genus *Phillipsastrea* from the Early Devonian of eastern Australia.

As predicted in my application, I visited the School of Earth Sciences at the University of New England where I found a well curated room with a vast store of thin sections. This work is nearing the submission stage, and is intended for publication as a memoir of the Association of Australasian Palaeontologists. The MS currently runs at 198 pages double spaced, and there are 36 figures including 34 photographic plates of corals. We propose 2 new genera among the 8 genera to which our species are assigned, and 7 new species. In all there are formal descriptions of 16 new and revised species, and reviews of many other species, genera and higher taxa. The material studied is mostly from central western and the New England regions of NSW, with additional taxa from Queensland and Victoria. Illustrations of almost all of the thin sections have been prepared by using a flat-bed scanner at the University of Wollongong. Study of the Ulah coral fauna progresses slowly, with preparation of more thin sections under way. Collection of limestone samples for conodont extraction from the Ulah strata was completely foiled by very severe flooding of Panuara Rivulet and further attempts to collect these samples are yet to be organised. That time at Orange was then spent assisting Drs Percival and Zhen in collecting samples from a Silurian section) and looking in vain for more material of the coral *Trapezophyllum* east of Wellington. Due to ongoing space problems in the School of Geosciences at the University of Wollongong, very substantial amounts of my collections have been moved off campus to a safe

repository, necessitating numerous trips. I have also been very fortunate to be able to have some photography done by David Barnes at Londonderry, most of this focusing on a very unusual new stropheodontid genus from Mount Frome.

### PROCEEDINGS OF THE LINNEAN SOCIETY OF NSW

All recent papers published in the *Proceedings* are freely available from  
<http://ojs-prod.library.usyd.edu.au/index.php/LIN>

Past volumes available from [www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/6525](http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/6525)

**NOTE: A CD is no longer distributed free**



### List of articles published in volume 141, 2019

Benson, D. – Two centuries of botanical exploration along the Botanists Way, northern Blue Mountains, NSW: a regional botanical history that reflects national trends.

Hope, Geoffrey et al. – Science through time: understanding the archives at Rennix Gap Bog, a sub-alpine peatland in Kosciuszko National Park, New South Wales, Australia.

Mackay, K David & Gross, C.L. – Climate change threatens a fig-frugivore mutualism at its drier, western range margin.

Please check regularly the Society's home page for recently uploaded papers by going to "linneansocietynsw.org.au" then click "Journal (Proceedings)".



### SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST

25. March 1908. From the Presidential Address by Mr A H S Lucas, President, in the Chair: "Mr David Scott Mitchell, M.A., deceased on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1907, whose association with the Society goes back to the 8<sup>th</sup> December 1874, was born in Sydney in 1836. Mr Mitchell was one of the first batch of graduates of the University of Sydney, taking his B.A. in 1856, and his M.A. in 1859. In 1858 he was admitted to the Bar, but did not practise as he had inherited considerable private means from his father. Thereafter he devoted his time and energy to the conduct of his private affairs, and to the gratification of his individual tastes as a bibliophile and collector. The results of forty-five years' discrimination and unstinted collecting of books, pamphlets, manuscripts, pictures, &c, chiefly but not exclusively relating to Australasia, henceforth, to be known as the Mitchell Library, was bequeathed to the State, together with the sum of £70,000 for endowment, upon certain conditions. The more important of these were that the individuality of the collection should be conserved, that it should be suitably housed in a separate wing of the contemplated National Library of the State, and that it should be maintained and rendered available to those who are competent to make use of it, under similar regulations to those which are in force in the British Museum Library.

The foundation stone of the Mitchell wing was laid by the Premier of the State, with appropriate ceremony in October 11<sup>th</sup>, 1906; and the edifice is now approaching completion. Mr Mitchell was a very reticent man upon the subject of the Mitchell Library, because he was an extremely modest man. Mr Mitchell did not add the pursuit of science to his accomplishments, be that as it may, the Society is honoured in having had among its Foundation Members, in the person of Mr Mitchell, another brilliant example of the private individual possessed of wealth, who made it his very special care to start a prolific enterprise and to provide for its maintenance, for the benefit of those who came after him."

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 1. 2019 LINNEAN SOCIETY OF NSW BLUE MOUNTAINS SYMPOSIUM

The Society will hold a symposium from Thursday 7 to Saturday 9 of November 2019 on geology, botany, zoology, ecology. It will have three components:

- i) 7. November: a day long field trip.
  - ii) 8. November: a day long scientific session, will be held at the Blue Mountains Heritage Centre Govetts Leap, Blackheath.
  - iii) 9. November: a day long public lecture day at the Springwood Sports Club.
- No full details as yet available.

### 2. FORTHCOMING LINNEAN SOCIETY OF NSW LECTURES:

September 18, 2019 – Dr Patricia Hutchings will talk about coral reefs

November 20, 2019 – Prof Michael Archer will talk about keeping native animals as pets.

Details regarding above lectures not yet available.

Lectures will be held in the Gallery Room, in the original Mitchell Wing, State Library of NSW.

### 3. ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NSW

#### a) – Wildlife Talk:

The Royal Zoological Society of NSW will have its monthly talk this Tuesday, June 18 at the Botany View Hotel, King Street, Newtown from 6:30pm. Everyone welcome.

#### Presenter- Dr Stephen Ambrose

**Topic:** *Sex, Gluttony and Death in the City: A Bird's Eye-View.*

Bird species are important and visible components of the biodiversity of our cities. They occur from our parklands and wetlands to inner city streets. But our cities are growing upwards and outwards, towards and into important bird habitats. While most bird species and populations decline in abundance when their natural habitats are impacted, a few have adapted to living in urban areas, including inner city areas. Who are the “winners” and who are the “losers”? What are the challenges for city birds, and why are some species successful while others fail? How can we manage our city environments to make them bird-friendly, but not too friendly that it favours introduced bird species at the expense of locally-native species? Stephen will draw on his extensive practical experience of bird populations in Australian cities to discuss some of these issues.

#### b) – RZS NSW Annual Forum 2019:

In 1999, the Royal Zoological Society of NSW ran a symposium on the dingo. The papers from the day were published by the Society in 2001 as *A symposium on the dingo* (edited by Chris Dickman and Dan Lunney). All the papers from that symposium are freely available on the website of the Royal Zoological Society of NSW. Now, 20 years after the initial symposium, we are taking the opportunity to bring together much of the large body of research and ideas that have advanced our understanding of the dingo since 1999. The day has been structured around a sequence of broad topics that both update key themes from the earlier forum and introduce new ideas. Given that there is a wide range of views on how to manage dingoes, and wild dogs, the day's program has been arranged so that the papers reflect the divergent views on this controversial carnivore. The very term “dingo” is evocative. For some people, dingoes are to be admired, but for others, they are to be feared. This creates a dilemma as to how we, as a nation, should manage the dingo. There is also the argument as to whether the dingo is a native species, and if yes, whether it qualifies for listing as threatened. Where such tensions exist, there is a pressing need to review how and why we manage dingoes. This debate requires many voices, and in our opinion, the

science of zoology has much to contribute. Hence this forum being a program of the Royal Zoological Society of NSW.

There will be ample opportunity for discussion and debate from the audience in the plenary sessions that are a key point of the structure of the day – in fact, a good proportion of the day is devoted to debate across the room. These plenary sessions will be recorded and form part of the publication that will follow the day. The day will be lively: do come and listen, and participate in the plenary sessions.

**A draft program can be found on our website ([www.rzsnsw.org.au](http://www.rzsnsw.org.au))**

**LINNEAN SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
NEED A TAX BREAK?  
Donations to our Scientific Research Funds are fully tax deductible**

**The Joyce W. Vickery Scientific Research Fund**

Is open to anyone engaged in research in Natural History. Over 80 projects have been supported in the last five years

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If you pay through a bank, it is essential that you e-mail the Society at

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