

Inside:

- Page 2
 - Be a part of the society
- Page 3
 - Plenary speakers
- Page 4
 - AGM
 - Conference
 - Membership and council details

AGM at the 2005 conference. See Page 4 for details.

AES on the Web!

www.evolutionau.org

add it to your site's link page now!

AES: Growing in 2005

I agreed to take on the Presidency of the Australasian Evolution Society at its joint meeting with the Australasian Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour held in April 2004. My charge was to organise the next meeting of the society, which is to be held from 27th-30th September at the Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle, Western Australia. My hope was that I could do more than just organise a meeting however. I wanted to be able to hand on a vibrant and active society to the next president, and in the long term to see our society continue to grow into a mature and self-sustaining entity.

Coming into the 2005 meeting we have a membership of 112 individuals, we have a new web site and the first issue of a regular newsletter. We have a list of delegates to the meeting that is drawn from centres across the Australasian region and from overseas, and what promises to be an exciting program of presentations on a broad range of topics that fall under the umbrella of evolutionary biology. Indeed, looking at the program it is obvious that Australasian evolutionary biology is at the cutting edge of international research, which encourages me to think that our society will persist and grow.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all our members to contribute to the web site, the newsletter, and to be proactive in encouraging their colleagues and students to join our society. Nominations for the society executive are now open and should be sent to the Secretary, and there will be an AGM at the Fremantle meeting. Members who would like to table issues for the agenda should e-mail the Secretary. This is your society, so come along to the AGM and get involved.

To those members who are coming to

Fremantle, the local organising committee looks forward to greeting you. Fremantle will be a perfect venue. The Esplanade has all the facilities one could ask for, there are some excellent inns to frequent - The Sail and Anchor and Little Creatures both brew their own ales on the premises. And there is a huge range of restaurants and coffee shops to choose from, essential elements for the all-important networking. As a break from typical conference tradition, we will close the meeting with a plenary speaker before retiring to celebrate Australasian evolutionary biology with the closing dinner.

I urge delegates who have not registered for this event to do so. We can accept late bookings up to registration on September 27th. To those members not currently registered for the meeting, please look at the program, now available on the web site, and think again. Although slots for speakers are now filled, we can still accept registrations up to September 20th.

As practitioners of evolutionary biology it is easy to fall into the misguided belief that evolutionary principles are widely accepted. Unfortunately this is far from the truth as is clear from the recent growth in debate over the teaching of "intelligent design". We need a strong and active Australasian Evolution Society in order to promote an understanding of the fundamental principles of evolution by natural selection within our region.

Leigh W. Simmons

President



New Website and Newsletter

Get involved in the AES. This is a plea to you to assist the society's goal to communicate with both the professional evolutionary biology community and the general public.

The fabulous new website, designed by Richard Peters (ANU) can, with your help, become the primary port of call for anyone seeking to find out about evolutionary biology in Australasia. View it now at evolutionau.org. It contains news, information and links concerning the society and its members' activities. Submissions can be made online.

The newsletter will be published twice yearly

and at other times when needed. It will serve several purposes; the delivery of information contained on evolutionau.org directly to members, as a forum for articles on topical issues and reviews, and as an archive of the society's activities.

There are no boundaries to the type of contribution you can make. Some suggestions are made below. The success of these ventures depends not only on your written submissions but also on your ideas for the improvement of their content and layout. Council members and the newsletter editor will be at the conference ready for your feedback and input.

Do you have an opinion of the teaching of evolution in Australia? Publish your thoughts with AES.

www.evolutionau.org

Web master Richard Peters – richard.peters@anu.edu.au

- Current events: seminars, visitors and meetings. Attach a link to your department's events site.
- Evolution research: links and summaries of Australasian research.
- Notice board: jobs, studentships, requests for volunteers, grants etc.
- Links to journals, societies and other evolution related web sites.

Australasian Evolution Newsletter

Editor Greg Adcock – gregory.adcock@anu.edu.au

- Submitted or commissioned articles on any topic pertaining to evolution in Australasia.
- Communications and official reports from office bearers.
- Current events, notices etc posted on evolutionau.org
- Reviews of books, conferences etc.
- Humour (!), photos and social



AES Conference 2005

Plenary Speakers



Mark Blows is an Assoc. Prof. and QEII Fellow in the School of Integrative Biology, University of Queensland. Mark's research interests are in evolutionary quantitative genetics with a particular emphasis on the evolution of complex multivariate adaptations. His recent work has focused on how sexual selection may exhaust genetic variance in male signal traits (*American Naturalist* 2004, 163: 329-340; *Evolution* 2004, 58: 2754-2762), and the determination of genetic constraints on adaptation (*American Naturalist* 2005, 165: 32-43; *Ecology* 2005 86: 1371-1384)



Geoff Parker FRS is Derby Professor of Zoology, University of Liverpool. He is an evolutionary biologist with special interests in behavioural and evolutionary ecology, and his research ranges from sperm competition and its evolutionary consequences (*Biol. Rev.* 1970, 45: 525-567) to the evolution of complex life cycles in helminth parasites (*Nature* 2003, 425: 480-484). Though he began as a field biologist working on sexual selection in dung flies, he quickly focused on theoretical modeling, mostly in the application of evolutionarily stable strategy (ESS) models to various problems in biology.



Russell Gray is an Assoc. Prof. in the Department of Psychology, University of Auckland. His broad research interests include; the development of novel statistical methods for the phylogenetic analysis of languages to elucidate the relationships among human groups (*Nature* 2003, 426: 435-439); tool manufacture, culture and cognition in birds (*Nature* 2001, 414: 717); behaviour and evolution of New Zealand birds (*Mol. Phy. Evol.* 17: 345-359); the formulation of "developmental systems theory" to examine nurture and nature explanations of behaviour.



Carl Gerhardt is Professor of Biological Sciences, University of Missouri. His research involves evolutionary and neurobiological approaches to acoustic communication in frogs and toads. This system is amenable to quantitative and experimental studies of the complex male acoustic signals and the responses of females. One focus is the grey tree frog complex (*Evolution* 2005, 59: 395-408). Females of two species have a hierarchy of preferences; strong preferences are based on properties that correlate with the species of the calling male and weak preferences correlated with the energetics of calling.

Why keep your famous visitors to yourself? Do your visitor and Australasian science a favour and tell www.evolutionau.org about them.



Office bearers

President:

Leigh W. Simmons
University of Western Australia
lsimmons@cyllene.edu.au

Vice-President:

J. Dale Roberts
University of Western Australia
droberts@cyllene.uwa.edu.au

Treasurer:

Jason Kennington
University of Western Australia
wjken@cyllene.uwa.edu.au

Secretary:

Paul Doughty
Western Australian Museum
Paul.Doughty@museum.wa.gov.au

Council members:

Mariella Herberstein
Macquarie University

Newsletter editor:

Greg Adcock
ANU
gregory.adcock@anu.edu.au

Web master:

Richard Peters
ANU
richard.peters@anu.edu.au

Mailing address

Australasian Evolution Society
School of Animal Biology
Faculty of Natural & Agricultural
Sciences
University of Western Australia
35 Stirling Highway
Crawley WA 6009
Australia

Information Page

AGM

Annual General Meeting of the Australasian Evolution Society 2005.

1730 Thursday September 29th at the
Esplanade Hotel Fremantle.

Nominations for the society executive are
now open. Nominations and submissions
for agenda items can be made to the
society's secretary Paul Doughty
(Paul.Doughty@museum.wa.gov.au).



Society Conference September 2005

You can still register!

4th Meeting of the Australasian Evolution Society

27th-30th September 2005 Esplanade
Hotel Fremantle Western Australia

See www.evolutionau.org for the
registration form, program, and
accommodation assistance.

Registration fees include welcome
reception 1800-2000 on 27th September,
Abstract book and delegate package,
entrance to the meeting, and tea/coffee &
lunches on 28th to 30th September. The
conference dinner on the evening of 30th

September is priced at \$95.00 or \$75.00
for students. The cost includes 5h access
to beverages.



Registration fees

Members: \$350 full, \$250 students

Non-members: \$425 full, \$325 students

Join the AES

Membership is open to all professional
scientists and scientifically interested
amateurs, who are engaged in
evolutionary research.

Membership applications can be
completed online using your credit card.
Alternatively, you may download and fill
out the rtf or PDF version and mail it to
the address on this page.

Rates (Australian Dollars)

\$20.00 Full-time students/non-institutional
\$40.00 All others

Cheques are payable to the *Australasian
Evolution Society*. Also, please specify on
the form whether you require a receipt
and we will mail one to you. Payment can
now be made via a direct transfer to the
Society's account using your own online
banking arrangements. Please email the
Treasurer (Jason Kennington) for further
details.

AES on the Web!

www.evolutionau.org

