



International Union for the Study of Social Insects

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Here in Australia some of us just celebrated Christmas in July (and some parts of Australia even experienced snow at the time) whereas other parts of the world enjoyed, and continue to enjoy, summer. Given that in my last newsletter I wished everyone a merry Christmas, I thought it would be a good time to send around another newsletter.

We have just received our annual income from Springer based on the income *Insectes Sociaux* generated. We received a total of €33,497.43 plus €3150.00 for review articles. We return most of the funds received for review articles to the authors and only keep a small amount to pay for the bank fees. The breakdown of our income over the last 4 years is as follows:

2011	2012	2013	2014	4-year change
48,372.43 €	45,626.94 €	35,891.37 €	33,497.43 €	-30.75%

As you can see, our income keeps dropping. The support we receive from Springer depends on the number of pages *Insectes Sociaux* publishes. Unfortunately this number continues to go down. I therefore would like to stress again how important it is for our community to submit good quality manuscripts to *Insectes Sociaux*. You can now also 'like' *Insectes Sociaux* on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/InsectesSociaux?ref=bookmarks>, read the blog at: <http://insectessociaux.com/> and follow *Insectes Sociaux* on twitter: <https://twitter.com/inssociaux>. Our social media editor, Marianne Peso, is doing a wonderful job spreading social insects news. However, she can only do so much if there aren't the articles to tweet or post about.

We provided substantial financial support to the International Congress in Cairns last year. We handed out \$130,000.00 in travel grants to sections plus \$20,764.75 in grants to individuals from countries without an IUSSI section. Our current balance is \$72,203.54.

The Financial Subcommittee (Joan Herbers, Mark Brown and Heike Feldhaar), in consultation with myself, has decided that given our financial situation and the continuing drop in our annual income we will focus on building a solid financial base to support attendance to the International Congress in Brazil in 2018. We will therefore not be offering travel grants to sections in 2016 or 2017.

Although this decision might disappoint some, given our financial situation we would only be able to hand out small amounts of money to attend local conferences which wouldn't go far when distributed across the different sections. We think it is much more productive to be able to support a large number of students and early-career researchers to attend the International Conference. We hope you will understand.

For now, enjoy the rest of your summer and when you live at my end of the planet, I hope winter will be gone soon.

Madeline Bekman