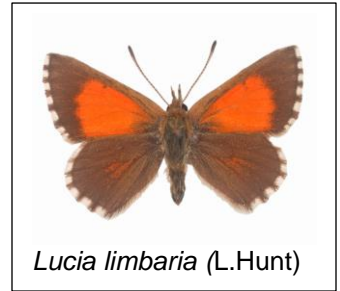


Friends of the Chequered Copper (*Lucia limbaria*) Butterfly

c/- Butterfly Conservation of SA Inc
ABN 88 179 165 805

Telephone 0407 972 149
c/-PO Box 4, Daw Park 5041
info@butterflyconservationsa.net.au

Report to the City of Adelaide



Lucia limbaria (L.Hunt)

Butterfly Conservation SA Inc (BCSA) 'Friends of the Chequered Copper (*Lucia limbaria*) Butterfly'.

In 2018 the Butterfly Conservation SA (BCSA) received funding of \$2500 from the City of Adelaide for the purposes of monitoring and reporting on the Chequered Copper (*Lucia limbaria*) butterfly in Victoria Park/Pakapakanthi Park 16

The funding was used by the BCSA to support the newly established committee of the BCSA, the 'Friends of the Chequered Copper (*Lucia limbaria*) Butterfly', in its activities.

Over the year the group was involved in:

- Promotion of the Chequered Copper (*Lucia limbaria*) butterfly as an indicator species of the health of the biodiversity area in Victoria Park/Pakapakanthi Park 16;
- Conservation and management of the Chequered Copper (*Lucia limbaria*) butterfly in some parts of the biodiversity area in Victoria Park/Pakapakanthi Park 16 (in partnership with City of Adelaide staff);
- Developing monitoring programs, recorded on ArcGIS, for the Chequered Copper (*Lucia limbaria*) butterfly and other invertebrates in selected areas of suitable habitat, with appropriate groups, including Nature Glenelg Trust and the SA Museum; and
- Joint promotional activities with other stakeholders (e.g. City of Adelaide, Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association, Trees For Life, Natural Resources AMLR).

Activities:

During summer of 2018-19 (October 18- March 19) the Friends of the Chequered Copper (*Lucia limbaria*) Butterfly were quite busy visiting Victoria Park/Pakapakanthi Park 16 on a weekly basis, and to other places, investigating the presence of the Chequered Copper (*Lucia limbaria*) butterflies, the butterfly host plant *Oxalis perennans* and the obligate common black ant *Iridomyrmex rufoniger*.

Frequent visits to Pakapakanthi and the use of a monitoring program (Collector for ArcGIS) on our iPad Mini tablet or our smartphones occurred with multiple users, which enabled multiple sightings of our targets to be recorded. The 3 main aspects we collected data on are:

- Host plant *Oxalis perennans* – presence/absence and 'browsing' by the butterfly larvae;
- Obligate ant *Iridomyrmex rufoniger* – presence/absence and proximity of the ant nest to the host plants;
- Flight of adults and presence of eggs and larvae of the Chequered Copper (*Lucia limbaria*) butterflies.

The City of Adelaide I held a School Holiday program activity on October 5th, in the remnant grassland area, with support from the SA Museum and Butterfly Conservation SA. One of the outputs of this event was a Grassland booklet available at the City of Adelaide. The Friends group has received a grant from the City of Adelaide to undertake the monitoring work and we are providing information and discussing management of the grassland area on a regular basis. One very important management aspect is that Council staff have been encouraged not to use mowers or brushcutters before 1100, as the adult butterflies are late-risers and remain quite sluggish, roosting in the grass tussocks.

A workshop for the Friends volunteers was held at the rooms of Scope Global on November 24th, which brought together experts in grasslands and biodiversity: Mike Moore, Roger Clay and Andrew Crompton. A presentation was made to the BCSA 20th birthday event on December 10th, lifting the awareness of the general membership about the activities of the Friends group.

Mid February 2019, following and during some significant heatwave events, we were able to see butterfly larvae browsing the host plants, great images and video of the ants herding the caterpillars and constantly checking the fresh CCB eggs. The images and video of male and female butterflies, caterpillars and the obligate ant *Iridomyrmex rufoniger* have been taken by volunteer photographer Greg Coote. (Greg has a Flickr site: flickr.com/photos/glcoote where you can view selected images.)

A presentation was made to the BCSA Public Talk on March 5th, showcasing the activities of the Friends group and the amazing behaviour of the caterpillars and the obligate ant.

On 23rd August 2019 a presentation was made to City of Adelaide staff using the first draft of the ArcGIS Story Map, prepared by Marian McDuie, which displayed interactively a synopsis of our work. There are more opportunities to provide information and recommendations for management of the grassland area and therefore a further grant to undertake the 2019-20 monitoring work, has been proposed. The URL for this Story Map is:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/41cb53778cf648b4b47387c4c46e4886>

Expenditure of 2018-19 grant for \$2500 from Council:

GIS mapping support (Marian McDuie): \$1500

Computer hardware (Mini iPad, Blue Sky GPS unit, Clip on microscopes): \$761.10

Software ArcGIS Annual License: \$275

Monitoring equipment (including wire flags): \$10.05

Catering: \$24.20

Sundries: \$23.39

TOTAL EXPENDITURE: \$2593.74. (In kind contribution 300 hours.)

A similar budget is proposed for 2019-20 and we are seeking \$2500. The expenditure will relate to GIS Support, Engagement, Workshops and Monitoring activities.

Contact: Gerry Butler, Butterfly Conservation SA Inc

Date: 29/09/19

Email: publications@ButterflyConservationSA.net.au