

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SAINC.

NEWSLETTER

No. 41: May 2011

ADELAIDE'S COPPER

Last newsletter we featured the rare Chequered or Grassland Copper *Lucia limbaria*. This species was last recorded on the Adelaide Plains from a single specimen in the SA Museum 45 years ago (1967) from Parkside. Further specimens in the Museum from the Adelaide plains were collected at Plympton in 1938, Parkside in 1942 (70 years ago). In 1900 it was recorded at Kensington. In March 2011, this butterfly was found at the southern end of Victoria Park and its survival in this location is remarkable.

Whilst the species is widespread and has been recorded from the Fleurieu Peninsula and the Mt.Lofty Ranges it is nowhere common. In pastureland the caterpillar host plant, *Oxalis perennans* struggles to survive amongst aggressive introduced grass species.

Original Adelaide City Council plans were to have placed playing fields over the entire southern end of the old racecourse. A huge amount of work by the Adelaide Parklands Preservation Society caused the original plans to be scrapped and a centrally located Conservation area of remnant vegetation was established. Then the butterfly was discovered to the south of this area.

A redeveloped plan saw plans for ten playing fields being drawn up that completely encircled the Conservation area. In March BCSA committee members Mike Moore and Jan Forrest provided Councillors and staff of the Adelaide City Council with an overview of the needs of the butterfly and urged that consideration be given to protect the area where the highest concentration of host plant and attendant ant occurred.

On 27th April the Adelaide City Councillors made the courageous decision to NOT go ahead with a proposed tenth oval located directly in the area of the butterfly habitat area. This decision is applauded and our thanks go to the Mayor for his casting vote to not develop this area. Thanks also to Councillor Plumeridge and Adrian Stokes and staff at the ACC and DENHR staff for their support.

More consultation with the council is needed however, to protect the long term survival of this lovaly butterfly species in the Victoria Park location. A fact sheet on *Lucia limbaria* is included with this newsletter.

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Left: BCSA committee members Mike Moore and Gerry Butler inspect patches of *Oxalis perennans* at Victoria Park with Melanie Spurling (AMLR NRM Board -NRM Communities Officer). Right: the host plant *Oxalis perennans* and it's location in the Victoria Park area. Photos: Jan Forrest

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA. INC. for membership enquiries and annual membership payments (\$10): Treasurer: 5 Oakleigh Road, MARION. 5043 S.AUST.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN BUTTERFLY HABITAT RESTORATION AT VICTORIA PARK.

Butterfly Conservation SA members, South Parklands Landcare Group members and other concerned landcarers have rallied to the charge to find out how they can be involved in protecting the habitat of the recently rediscovered butterfly *Lucia limbaria*.

Every person, who has been informed of the unique symbiotic relationship between the butterfly larvae, which are attended by numerous small, common black ants *Iridomyrmex* sp. (*gracilis* and *rufoniger* groups), is enthralled and wants to help in preserving this unique biodiversity.

The BCSA understands that maintenance of the *Oxalis perennans* (Native Sorrel) will not be a difficult task if sufficient numbers of volunteers are available to assist, to implement an appropriate conservation plan, using "Bushcare" techniques and the precautionary principle is applied to do no harm when undertaking this work.

One of the most important activities will be to develop an understanding of the plants, insects, spiders and some of this work has been done with identifying locations of plants and trap-door spider holes but there is much more to learn about this special area of Victoria Park.

Training in Bushcare techniques can, and will be provided, for any volunteers and this will be undertaken in association with mapping and research by the community commonly called "Citizen Science".

The BCSA encourages you to take an interest in this unique biodiversity and assist in protecting it for future generations.

Please contact BCSA committee member Gerry Butler if you are interested in becoming involved: gerry. butler@ozemail.com.au

REMNANT VEGETATION and BUTTERFLIES AT VICTORIA PARK

The results of the recent NCSSA survey are not yet available however these are some of the remnant plants known to occur in the Victoria Park DENR/ACC area to be managed by an NRM agreement:

Astrostipa gibbosa Fat Spear-grass - CS Rare in SA and regionally Austrostipa curticoma Short-crested Spear Grass CS Uncommon regionally Aristida behriana Brush Wire-grass CS Uncommon regionally Elymus scaber Native Wheat-grass

Austrodanthonia caespitosa Common Wallaby-grass

Chloris truncata Windmill grass

Wurmbea dioica Early Star-lily, now not known to occur elsewhere on the Adelaide plains

Hypoxis glabella Tiny star

Calostemma purpureum Pink Garland-lily (it isn't a lily)

Arthropodium strictum Common Vanilla-lily

Oxalis perennans Native Sorrel (host plant of Lucia limbaria butterfly) Dichondra repens Kidney weed

Portulaca oleracea Common purslane (it's also in the Southern area of the parklands)

Chenopodium pumilio Clammy goosefoot (also in the southern area of the parklands)

There is also a non-remnant significant tree *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* River Red Gum, planted decades ago.

Other butterflies

Several other species of butterfly have been observed in the area covered by the NRM agreement and south of this area (see map) where *Oxalis perennans* and the butterfly *Lucia limbaria* occur these include the Saltbush Blue butterfly *Theclinesthes serpentata* possibly feeding on a remnant chenopod, Common Grass Blues, Painted Ladies and the Meadow Argus.



Saltbush blue *Theclinesthes serpentata* Photo: Malcolm Houston (Henley Beach April, 2011)



The Saltbush Blue butterfly is possibly feeding on this remnant chenopod Photo: Jan Forrest

from PARK LANDS NEWS MARCH 2009

Closing paragraph from an article by Darrell Kraehenbuehl BA AM

"From my point of view, I find that the Victoria Park area is a remarkable remaining grassland community that has survived 173 years of European settlement - an important survivor of South Australia's colonial history. Much of the native vegetation of Adelaide has been lost - at least we now have a chance to save a very interesting area from desecration".

MAP OF VICTORIA PARK



Map of Victoria Park (formerly racecourse) showing the occurrence of the rare Chequered Copper butterfly *Lucia limbaria* and it's hostplant the Native Sorrel *Oxalis perennans*. The area coloured yellow is the conservation area with NRM agreement status, some *Oxalis* occur in this area and some butterflies have been observed here, however a majority of the plants are OUTSIDE the protected area as noted in red and south towards the creek. Insert left, shows greatest concentration within this purple area of *Oxalis* (not same scale).

THE HABITAT

The area where the butterfly has survived all these years is quite remarkable, it looks like a field, however it may be this very neglect over the years that has been the salvation of the species in this area along with the fact that the larva lives underground in an ant nest and comes out to feed (possibly at night).

The host plant *Oxalis perennans* survives best where there are bare patches around it and not hemmed in by aggressive grasses. As a very low ground cover plant, the mowing of the area appears to have not affected the plant's survival. Although the attendant ant *Iridomyrmex* spp is a widespread common species we know little about its habits and needs. At present it appears to be fairly common in the area.

There are few nectar plants in the area for the adults to feed upon and they appear to have been feeding on 'common heliotrope' *Heliotropium europaeum*. We have suggested that this weed should be retained in the short term, pending the planting of local provenance flowering plants. Weeds are part of the habitat at present.

CALL TO ACTION

If you have an interest in the redevelopment of Victoria Park and the remnant vegetation write to the Lord Mayor of Adelaide The Hon. Stephen Yarwood; the Minister for Environment the Hon. Paul Cacio and the Chief Executive officer of the Department of Environment and Heritage Allan Holmes.

In particular, if you would like the existing conservation area (in yellow) extended south to include the habitat of the butterfly <u>Lucia limbaria</u> it's host plant <u>Oxalis perennans</u> and the butterfly's attendant ant <u>Irodimyrmex</u> spp.

Ask to be kept informed on the potential flooding of the southern area as part of a possible flood mitigation scheme yet to be fully discussed and approved by council.

CAN YOU HELP?

Secretary Jan Forrest is seeking help from a member/s

- to put the newsletters into envelopes
- assist with converting Publisher fact sheets into InDesign If you can assist please contact Jan on 82978230 or via email.

BCSA POLO SHIRT ORDERS

They look stunning....

The initial shirt orders through the Secretary are now closed however you may place an order directly with MARINO UNIFORMS, 861 South Road, Clarence Gardens. Cost for shirt will still be \$19 however the embroidery will be more expensive as the price quoted in the last newsletter was for 10 or more.

TYPE: Polo. SITE SEARCH CODE: P800 Log onto www.bizcollection.com.au for sizes and colours. Light colours are best. Logo 1 has the brown leaves and a new Logo 2 has green leaves see below.

If you have an existing shirt, polar fleece, overall etc. that you would like a logo embroidered onto please contact Secretary Jan Forrest. We need a minimum of 5. Logo will cost \$10 each to embroider.

Due to an error in sizing there are two 62cm (extra large) shirts in Mid Jade and Gold, available for immediate collection see below. If you would like to purchase one of these for \$28 (plus postage) please contact Secretary Jan Forrest forrestjan@adam.com.



LUCIA LIMBARIA FOUND AT CLARE

On reading the last newsletter No 40, February 2011, I was interested to see a report on the Chequered Copper butterfly. I had recently noticed them in my garden in Clare and thought I would advise you of this as it appears they are not very common. I first noticed them mid February and saw them regularly for about 10 days. I have not seen them lately. They were flying closely above a patch of couch grass which has some *Oxalis* sp. (probably *O. corniculata*) in it and would then bask for a short time. This is the first time I have noticed them here and hopefully will see some again. We have a large garden planted with natives and see quite a few different butterflies here.

Pam O'Malley



Lucia limbaria adult Photo: Pam O'Malley

We are delighted to report that this is a new record for the state, although not unexpected. The species is rare but also widespread. Thanks for the report Pam. Editor.

EXCURSION

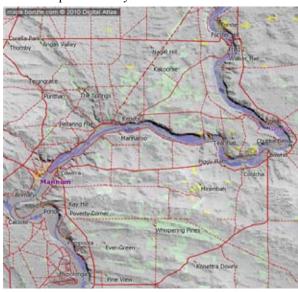
Where? To a site near Purnong on the River Murray where the White-veined Skipper *Herimosa albovenata* is known to fly in mid September.

When? Probably on the weekend of 24th September, 2011.

Expedition leader Mike Moore. This trip is still in the planning stages and could be a day trip or it could be a weekend trip where we incorporate a visit to nearby fossil sites.

If you know of interesting places to visit in the vicinity of Mannum, Walkers Flat and environs please contact the Secretary Jan Forrest.

Expressions of interest are now being received. Please contact the secretary if you would like further information provided to you.



BUTTERFLY GARDENING DVD A film about attracting native butterflies to your area

Members may purchase the 'Butterfly Garden' DVD for the special price of \$15 plus packet and postage \$5 (rrp \$20, plus postage \$5).

If you would like a copy posted to you please send a note advising which cover you would like (green one has some information about curriculum for schools included) with cheque or money order to:

Secretary, Butterfly Conservation SA Inc., C/- South Australian Museum,

North Terrace, ADELAIDE. 5000 S.AUST. Cheques to be made out to Butterfly Conservation SA Inc.

OR

Direct Debit to: BSB 805-022 Account No: 02247994

Account Name: Butterfly Conservation SA

Please email treasurer if paying by direct debit: mima@esc.net.au advising what the funds are for including, which cover you want and your name and address.





QUERY: Does anyone know a J.Lynnett? We have received a cheque however have no record in the database of this person as a member.

COLIN'S GARDEN

I noticed the request for information and pictures of peoples butterfly gardens and thought I'd share my attempt.

I live at Gawler Belt on a 2 acre block. The block has little remnant vegetation other than a few old eucalypts. I have been using the Trees For Life propagation concepts to increase the number of native trees, shrubs and grasses. I have been arranging the plantings into 'islands' for ease of maintenance.

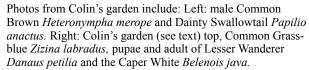
About 2 years ago I planted an island near the house consisting of plants identified as useful to butterflies (see photo right). My idea is to use this area as stock for propagation. Included in this grouping is a Swan Plant (narrow leaf cotton bush) that I do not allow to go to seed. This bush has produced a large number of Wanderer and Lesser Wanderer butterflies.

Another bush that has had a particularly good flower show this year is the Scurf Pea (*Cullen*). I have noticed a number of butterflies visiting the flowers including the Wanderers, Caper White, Cabbage White and Chequered Swallowtail.

Colin Smith







Congratulations Colin on your garden and the number of species you have been able to attract. We look forward to hearing from other members and to see images of their gardens. Editor.

NOTE: From time to time we receive requests for milkweed and swan plants. If you have extra plants or seeds could you advise the Secretary.











GUIDE TO INDIGENOUS LARVAL FOOD PLANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BUTTERFLIES

Butterflies use a varied but select menu of plant foods, both from introduced and indigenous species. Plant foods include grasses, sedges, legumes, citrus, mistletoes etc. What they eat is largely dependant on certain plant family characteristics and is sometimes just one particular genus. Butterflies can adapt to feed on any member of the same family if the local foods are not available, this more so as their natural habitat is being altered or disappearing all together. The following table indicates the specific indigenous plant species used by South Australian butterflies.

THE PLANTS		THE BUTTERFLIES		
Common name	Botanical name	Common name	Scientific name	
Poaceae or Gramineae: the grass family				
Spear grass	Austrostipa (Stipa)	White Veined Skipper	Anisynta albovenata	
Kangaroo grass	Themeda triandra	Ringed Xenica	Geitoneura acantha	
		Common Brown	Heteronympha spp.	
Tussock grasses	Poa poaeformis and	Common Brown	Heteronympha spp.	
	other spp.	Kings Xenica	Geitoneura klugii	
Wallaby grasses	Austrodanthonia	White Grass Dart	Taractrocera papyria	
	Mostly introduced grasses		Ocybadistes walkeri	
Mostly introduced grasses and some palms		Black & White Skipper	Montasingha atralba	
Note: Other indigenous food plants include: Echinopogon, Microlaena, Imperata etc				
Note: Introduced food plants include: kikuyu, couch, bromes and other grass species				
Cyperaceae: the seds	ge family (rarely on famili	es allied to Cyperaceae)		
Saw-sedges	Gahnia (most species)	Skippers	Hesperilla spp.	
	G. sieberiana	Sword Grass Brown	Tisiphone abeona	
Rapier/saw-sedges	Lepidosperma/Gahnia	Black & White Skipper	Motasingha atralba	
Liliaceae: the lily far	nily (not irises or allied far	milies)		
Iron-grasses	Lomandra dura,	Rare White Spotted	Trapezites luteus	
	L. longifolia & others	Skipper	•	
Urticaceae: the sting	ing nettle family (exclusiv	rely on the native or intro	duced species)	
Stinging nettles	Urtica incisa, *U. urens	Australian Admiral	Vanessa itea	
Loranthaceae: the mistletoe family (all mistletoes in SA are indigenous)				
Mistletoes and	Amyema & Lysiana	Azures	Ogyris spp.	
quandongs	and Santalum spp.	Wood White	Delias aganippe	
Sour/broom-bush	Choretrum	Fiery Jewel	Hypochrysops ignita	
Chenopodiaceae: the goosefoot family				
Saltbushes	Atriplex spp.	Chequered Blue	Theclinesthes	
Goosefoots/fat hen	Chenopodium spp.	1 • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	serpentata	
Berry saltbushes	Rhagodia spp.			
Portulacaceae: the purslane family				
Portulacas	Portulaca spp.	Meadow Argus	Precis villida calybe	
Note: the meadow argus feeds on many weeds such as plantago (may feed on natives ones)				
Lauraceae: the laurel family (not cuscutas from Convolvulaceae)				
Snotty-gobbles	Cassytha spp.	Dusky Blues	Candalides spp.	
Brassicaceae or Cruciferae : the cabbage family (the cabbage white also feeds on nasturtiums)				
Cabbage & allies	Brassica spp. & allies	*Cabbage White	*Pieris rapae	

Capparidaceae or Capparaceae: the native orange or capparis family					
Native orange	Capparis spp.	Caper White	Belenois java		
Tickweed	Cleome viscosa	1	teutonia		
Mimosaceae: the wattle or mimosa family (sub family of Fabaceae/Leguminosae)					
Wattles which	Acacia anceps, A.	Icilius Blue	Jalmenus icilius		
includes mulga,	aneura, A. victoriae				
myalls etc	A. brachybotrya, A,	Blue Spotted Line	Nacaduba biocellata		
	aneura, A. rigens, A.	Blue			
	sclerophylla, A.				
	papyrocarpa				
	(sowdenii) A. victoriae	Wattle Blue	Theclinesthes miskini		
	A. victoriae	Lithachroa Blue (only Endemic to SA)	Jalmenus lithochroa		
Introduced species	A. baileyana/Bracychiton	Tailed Emperor	Polyura sempronius		
Caesalpiniaceae: the cassia or senna family (sub family of Fabaceae/Leguminosae)					
Desert cassia	Senna artemisioides	Icilius Blue	Jalmenus icilius		
Yellow pea	S. planitiicola	Common Migrant	Catopsilia pyranthe		
Hairy/hoary cassia	S. tomentosa (now var.	Small Grass Yellow	Eurema smilax		
	of artemisioides)				
Papilionaceae: the pea flower family (sub family of Fabaceae/Leguminosae)					
Swainsona spp.	Swainsona spp.	Pea Blue	Lampides boeticus		
Parrot flower	Crotalaria spp.				
Australian trefoil	Lotus australis	Common Grass Blue	Zizina labradus		
Running postman	Kennedia prostrata				
Note: Feeds on introduced sweet peas, peas, broad beans, lupins, vetches, clovers, medics etc					
Eutaxia	Eutaxia microphylla	Fringed Blue	Neolucia agricola		
Glycines	Glycine spp.	Common Grass Blue	Zizina labradus		
Scurf pea (Psoralea)	Cullen patens				
Scurf pea (Psoralea)	Cullen cinereum, C.	Chequered	Papilio demoleus		
	patens and other spp.	Swallowtail			
Oxalidaceae: the sour sob family					
Native sorrel	Oxalis perennans	Small Copper	Lucia limbaria		
Note: Also feeds on the	e introduced creeping oxalis	(Oxalis corniculata) the ye	ellow wood sorrel		
Rutaceae: the rue or	citrus family (most native		ut by stock)		
Orange/lemons	*Citrus spp.	Dingy Swallowtail	Papilio anactus		
Euphorbiaceae: the	spurge family				
Bitterbushes	Adriana spp.	Bitterbush Blue T	heclinesthes albocincta		
Asclepiadaceae : the milkweed family (used by both the monarch and the native wanderer)					
Milkweeds	Asclepias spp.	*The Monarch	*Danaus plexippus		
	Cynanchum & allies	Lesser Wanderer	Danaus chrysippus		
Goodeniaceae: the goodenia family					
Goodenia and	Goodenia spp. & allies	Meadow Argus	Precis villida calybe		
relative species	and some Verbenaceae				
Asteraceae or Compositae: the daisy family					
Everlastings	Helichrysum group	Painted Lady	Vanessa kershawi		
Note: food and nectar	r from many weeds such as	s cape weed, thistles and	garden plants		

Summary adapted from 'Butterflies of South Australia' – RH Fisher 1978 and the BCSA book 'Attracting Butterflies to your Garden' 2007 (article by D Keane 2011)

PUBLIC TALKS PROGRAM 2011

Presented by Butterfly Conservation SA Inc.

On the first Tuesday of the month March to November at 6.15pm for a prompt 6.30pm start.

At the Clarence Park Community Centre 72-74 East Avenue, Black Forest.
Bus route W91/W90: stop 10.
Noarlunga Train service: Clarence Park Station

Glenelg Tram: Forestville stop 4, 9min walk south.

Entry by donation (minimum of \$2).

Please bring supper to share, tea/coffee will be supplied. **Meetings** should conclude by 8.30pm.

At the start of each meeting (other than in Aug) a ten minute presentation on a 'Butterfly of the Month' will be given by a BCSA committee member.

7th June: "Invertebrates of Antarctica" A fascinating look into the world of small invertebrates that cling to life in a remote and desolate place, presented by Museum researcher Dr. Mark Stevens.

5th July: "Native Grasses - an overview" Grasses are an important food plant for the caterpillars of several butterfly species, they also look good in your garden. Presented by member Robert Myers from the Native Grasses Association.

2nd Aug and AGM: "Life history of the Ogyris butterflies" Following a short BCSA AGM member Mike Moore will present the fascinating life history of this butterfly species. Many Ogyris caterpillars live with ants and this relationship has fascinated butterfly enthusiasts for decades.

6th Sept: "The paradox of the possum: possums in our lives in SA" Philip Roetman from the University of South Australia has researched how people interact with our native possums. An entertaining talk on the pros and cons of living with possums, and why our space is important habitat for this local wildlife.

4th Oct: "Life on salt lakes" South Australia has many salt lakes and Museum Collection Manager Dr. Peter Hudson prowls every lake he encounters looking for the signs of the animals that live on and below the surface of the lake.

1st Nov "Vertical Wall and Rooftop Gardening at the Adelaide Zoo" Horticulturists Jeff Lugg and Danielle Shallow are involved in the planning, design, construction, installation and maintenance of a special garden at the zoo - this fascinating talk will be of interest to all gardeners.

In this case of an advertised speaker not being available, a speaker of similar interest will replace that advertised.

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA Inc.

Chairman: David Keane

Secretary and Newsletter Editor: Jan Forrest OAM C/- South Australian Museum, North Terrace, ADELAIDE, 5000 ph H (08) 82978230. email < jan.forrest@samuseum.sa.gov.au > or <forrestjan@adam.com.au> Treasurer : 5 Oakleigh Road, MARION. 5043 S.AUST.

OUTREACH PROGRAM

The full exhibition and AO size panels from the Exhibition "Where have all the Butterflies gone?" are available from Jan Forrest at the South Australian Museum for use by Landcare and other Conservation groups at seminars, conferences and workshops or just for display. Included are five introductory panels, and seventeen panels from seven habitat areas: Coastal, Grasses, Mallee, Urban, Migration/Vagrant, Eucalyptus Forrest/Woodland, Arid, Wetland and Lower South East.

DIARY DATES

COMMITTEE MEETINGS - Meetings are normally held bi-monthly (usually the second Monday of the month) at 6.00pm in the Urrbrae Wetlands Resource Centre, Cross Roads, Urrbrae or at a committee members home. All members are welcome to attend. If you would like to attend please contact Secretary Jan Forrest. Next Committee Meeting: 11th July, venue to be advised, 6.30pm NEW PUBLIC TALKS PROGRAM: first Tuesday March - Nov., Clarence Park Community Centre 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start to 8.30pm. Next talk: 7th June "Invertebrates of Antarctica" by Dr. Mark Stevens.

WEB SITES

- "Butterfly Gardening" www.butterflygardening.net.au
- 'Butterfly Conservation SA Inc.' http://www.chariot.net.au/~bcsa/index.htm
- 'South Australian Butterflies' (Roger Grund private site)
- http://www.chariot.net.au/~rgrund/index.htm
- 'Butterfly Watch' and 'Butterfly Challenge' SAMuseum website www.samuseum.sa.gov.au then click on 'Whats On' then 'online exhibitions'.

 Teacher Resources (Jackie Miers) http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/jmresources/butadelaide/Butterflies of Adelaide.html

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Moana Kindergarten Hawthorndene Kindergarten **Anne Hicks Glenys & Graham Pearce Helen Smith** Sue Russell Diane Beer **Beverly and Ray Hartigan Kelly Henderson** Kathleen Patitsas **Kyle Penick** Kenneth Edmunds **Matthew Fuhlbohm** Michael Fuhlbohm Jill Meyer **Elizabeth Tebbett** Wendy & James Ferguson **Brenda Riddle** Kate Nance **Helen Prvor** Mandy Pullen

IN MEMORIAL Ada Burg

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE

