



BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA INC.

NEWSLETTER

No. 61: May, 2017

'WHORLED PIGEON GRASS' OR 'STICKY GRASS'

Setaria sp.

Treasurer John Wilson has reported that he found two Wanderer butterflies stuck to a seed head of the introduced weed whorled pigeon grass, *Setaria* sp. sometimes called sticky grass. Both butterflies were in poor condition due to having flapped to get away and knocking scales off their wings. When he released them they flew off, however much damaged.

The grass is an introduced species native to warmer parts of the Northern Hemisphere.

The first record in South Australis is 1904. Now it is found in all states and is a weed of disturbed areas around human habitation.

With a magnifying glass you should be able to make out backward reflexed barbs on the seed head bristles which is why they cling to clothing and animal hair so well, and it would seem, to butterflies that get too close.

The seed heads are usually 5cm long, but some growing in John's vegetable patch grew so much they were up to 10cm. As discussed, two Monarchs were snared on the seed head and couldn't get away.



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Check out our website for a Site Sign Application form.



Images on the far left provided by John Wilson show the overall plant. He has bent it in two as total length was 80 cm plus - sprawled through his vegetable patch. The image below that, is a close up of one of the smaller seed heads.

The image above taken by Jan Forrest is of a nearly spent seed head and left a much smaller plant showing leaves and seed heads.

Thanks to members who helped out at our stall at Sophies Patch and the Australian Plant Society sale.

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA. INC. Membership enquiries: treasurer@butterflyconservationsa.net.au
 Membership payments (\$10pa - plus \$10 surcharge for posted newsletters): to Treasurer: C/- South Australian Museum, North Terrace, ADELAIDE. 5000. Cheques to be made out to: Butterfly Conservation SA Inc.
 EFT details: BSB 633-000 Account No:152785838 Bank: Bendigo Bank. Account Name: Butterfly Conservation SA Inc.
 Please email Treasurer if paying by direct debit: treasurer@butterflyconservationsa.net.au with name, amount and item.

MOTH BOOK PROGRESS

During February Peter McQuillan visited Adelaide and he and I spend three intensive days working on the Moth book text. So far drafts of the introduction, history of moth research in Adelaide, moth families and 150 pages of moth species have been prepared however the text still requires editing and the sourcing of images of moth life histories is ongoing.

Roger Grund has provided a huge number of images and is presently writing up text for fifteen species that he has reared and his contribution is greatly appreciated.

It is proposed that the text will follow the format set up in the now out of print *"A guide to Common Moths of the Adelaide Region"* produced in 1985 by Peter McQuillan. This includes: Life History, Foodplants, Similar Species and Notes. In the early book the production of colour plates could only be located in the centre of the book. Our book however, will feature images of adults, their caterpillar and in some cases eggs, pupa and host plants. So with each species having illustrations directly next to the text, colour descriptions of the adult and caterpillars are now not needed unless there is a distinctive colour feature which is important to highlight.

I have done a mock up using as a template the format of our butterfly book to see what it may look like and to see how much room for text and images we may need. Once we have sourced all the images and we are happy with the text then it will go to EcoCreative (who produced our previous book) to provide the final production. In the meantime ideas to raise funds to produce the book are welcome.

We are also now seeking a name for the book and your suggestions are welcome.

I do quite a few talks to community groups on attracting butterflies to your garden and in my experience after the talk the majority of questions I receive are about caterpillars!

So I would suggest that the word 'caterpillar' is included in the title as people seem to be more interested in caterpillars than moths. Suggestions could include:

- *"Caterpillars, Moths and their Plants, from the Adelaide region"*.
- *"What Caterpillar is that? A book about caterpillars, moths and their plants"*
- *"A guide to common moths of the Adelaide Region"* (the title of the previous book).
- *"Moths of the Adelaide region"*
- *"A guide to moths and their caterpillars of the Adelaide Region" (or "caterpillars and their moths")*

Please send your suggestions to me c/- the address on the back page. What do you think of the titles above and what is your preference.

Jan Forrest



Jan Forrest and Peter McQuillan working on the moth book.

VISIT TO MONARTO ZOO

During April several members of the committee visited Monarto Zoo to discuss with staff plans for an interpretive butterfly trail behind the scenes of the zoo usually reserved for staff and special school and group tours.

The area has huge potential for attracting and breeding existing butterfly species and for attracting species that would come if their caterpillar's host plant was available.

If you would like to be involved in this project, particularly if you live near by, please contact Secretary Jan Forrest who will put you in touch with BCSA co-ordinator Andrew Walters. We are keen to follow this initial visit with further visits, possibly to survey the whole park for host and nectar plants and to see what other trail and signage can be added to enhance the visitor experience at the zoo.



Left: Staff member Louise Stockbridge, Gil Hollamby, David Keane and Andrew Walters, top David and Gil check out a plant and above the area of interest. Photos: Jan Forrest

MOTH SCULPTURE AT TUNGKILLO

Tungkillo is located approximately 5 km (3.1 mi) south of Mount Pleasant on the Adelaide-Mannum road and is 60km north east of Adelaide.

Tungkillo was originally the name of a mine located south of Palmer, which opened in 1847. In 1848, a town was surveyed at the mine. The present-day town was settled by Samuel Patten in 1861, who called it *South Petherton* (after the Somerset town of South Petherton from which his family originated). The name of South Petherton was officially altered on 24 January 1906 to Tungkillo, although the two names were used interchangeably as late as 1936.

Tungkillo is a corruption of *tainkila*, an Peramangk Aboriginal word meaning *ghost moth grubs* and on the corner of the main road and McCormick Road the locals have created a sculpture of a giant adult ghost moth.

When Anne and Malcolm Reynolds from Tungkillo came into the Museum to find out more about ghost moths they just happened to catch up with BCSA Chairman Mike Moore whose passion at the moment is the taxonomy of this group of Hepialid moths. They were delighted to catch up with him again at the Mt.Pleasant show and after that encounter forwarded these photos for the newsletter showing the creation of this sculpture.

Malcolm sculpted the the moth in his workshop. Below is an image of the moth being installed in Tungkillo and right the start of one of the wings and the moth still in the workshop. This is only stage one of the whole project, the community aims to have some landscaping including a caterpillar emerging, made from stone.



Top: the finished moth, Below: the start of one of the wings and Above the moth still in the workshop, partly finished. Right: moth and stand at the corner of main road and McCormick Road Tungkillo. Photos: Jan Forrest (top and right) and Anne & Malcolm Reynolds.



Left: adult ghost moth *Trictena atripalpis* and above the feathery antennae typical of this group of moths. Photos: Lindsay Hunt.

BCSA PUBLIC TALKS PROGRAM - JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST

6th June: Pollination. Many different insect groups and some animals (not just bees) have a major role in pollinating plants. Mike Gemmell from the SA Museum Discovery Centre will explore ways each of these groups perform this very important task.

In 2012 Mike was awarded the 'Unsung Hero of South Australian Science Communication Award' the citation reads. *Mike is the Manager of the SA Museum's Discovery Centre. A perpetual student, tireless educator and dedicated science communicator, Mike enjoys every opportunity to share his knowledge with young and old alike. His general knowledge is outstanding and he excels at providing information on an interpersonal level on a diverse range of subjects. He regularly speaks with groups outside the confines of the museum, including participation in local and rural community events where he makes science relevant to the general public.*

Mike provides a vital public service by addressing topical media issues for local and regional newspapers, radio and television. Mike also plays a pivotal role informing and educating many professionals regarding organisms found across the region and their potential impact.

Regardless of the audience, Mike exhibits incredible patience identifying, describing and explaining the key aspects of a specimen or topic.

We look forward to hearing Mike's talk on the 6th June.

4th July: *Acacias and some close relatives.*

Martin O'Leary from the State Herbarium of SA will show some historic and more recent collections of Acacias and their relatives from South Australia and Cape York, and discuss aspects of their distribution, taxonomy and ethnobotany.

Martin is the technical officer for the State Herbarium. His interests are primarily focused on *Acacia* but also the Myrtaceae as these are his curatorial responsibilities with the Herbarium collection.

After 25 years of experience with the vegetation of South Australia, Martin's interest is flora in general, such as their taxonomic relationships, distribution, biology, cultivation and ethnobotany.

Martin has previously worked on rare and endangered species and their propagation through seed germination, cuttings and tissue culture.

Martin gives talks to community groups such as the Australian Plant Society, Friends of the Botanic Gardens and conservation parks.

Research expertise

Biodiversity discovery
Species and populations
Seascapes, landscapes and communities

We will be delighted to welcome Martin on 4th July.

1st August: 6.30pm BCSA AGM 7.00pm Public Talk "Changes in the distribution and abundance of birds in the Adelaide region over the last 30 years".

David Paton AM will show some of the changes in distributions of birds between the mid-1980s to the mid 2010's for the "Adelaide" region. Although a few species have increased in distribution most have continued to decline despite a general cessation to broadacre vegetation clearance. David will offer explanations for some of these changes but the message is clear, species of birds continue to disappear from our landscapes and we seem unable or unwilling to prevent them.

Associate Professor David Paton AM is the leader of the Woodland Recovery Initiative project and team. Dr Paton is part of the University of Adelaide's School of Biological Sciences. He has contributed to the understanding and management of Australia's natural environment for three decades and is highly regarded for his research activities at Kangaroo Island and the Coorong, both of which are internationally recognised South Australian icons.

A founding member of the University's Research Institute for Climate Change and Sustainability, Dr Paton's areas of research expertise include:

- the ecology and behaviour of birds
- conservation, revegetation programs and habitat

restoration

- bird-plant interactions (eg. pollination)
- Murray River and Coorong ecology
- management of vertebrate pests (cats, koalas, birds)
- responses of flora and fauna to fire and drought.

In 1999 Dr Paton received the SA Great Award for the Environment in recognition of his contribution to understanding, protecting and enhancing South Australia's natural environment. In 2006 he was the recipient of the Premier's Science Excellence Award for Excellence in Research for Public Good Outcomes.

In 2008 he received the Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for "service to conservation and the environment through research into the ecology and behaviour of Australian birds, to the management and restoration of the natural environment, and to education".



Butterfly Conservation South Australia Inc.

presents

a PUBLIC TALKS PROGRAM 2017

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. 5th September talk
(Sophie Thomson) will be at St Peter Claver Hall, Stuart
Road Dulwich.

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).

Bookings not required

Please bring supper to share, tea/coffee will be supplied.

Meetings should conclude by 8.30pm.

At the start of each meeting a ten minute
presentation on a 'Butterfly of the Month'
will be given by a BCSA committee member.

Photo LFHunt. Day flying Mistletoe Moth *Comocrus behri*

www.butterflygardening.net.au

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5th September: 'Spring into your garden' presented by Sophie Thomson from ABC Gardening Australia. She is a strong advocate for sustainable gardening practices, growing organic food, cooking from the home garden and creating backyards where kids can play and develop a connection with nature. **NOTE** different venue - to be held at: **St Peter Claver Hall, Stuart Road, Dulwich.**

3rd October: 'Managing remnants of the Black Forest' Learn how Adelaide City Council's Biodiversity Team and team member Liam Crook, is protecting and enhancing a small remnant portion of what once was the Black Forest, a Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*), SA Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon*) and grassy woodland, in Victoria Park/Pakapakanthi.

7th November: 'Wildlife of Greater Adelaide' James Smith from Faunature is the author of this comprehensive book. Prof. Chris Daniels said "as a result (of this book) we can now identify our own animals, no matter how odd or obscure, and hence recognise the remarkable, unique, diverse and spectacular fauna that surrounds us."

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

BRINGING BACK THE YELLOW SEDGE SKIPPER to the Northern Adelaide coastal plains

A FREE PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Thursday 18 May 6pm - 8pm

Sunday 21st May 2pm - 4pm

St Kilda Progress Assoc. Hall,

2 Beach Road, St.Kilda SA (light refreshments)

RSVP: 12 May 0406 226 296

chrisbutcher@ncssa.asn.au

PHOTOS FROM SOPHIES PATCH DURING EASTER (see article page 7)

Photos: Jan Forrest



WILLOW CREEK BUTTERFLY SITE

Jeff Lappin & Lynne Claughton

BACKGROUND

'Willow Creek' is a 5 acre rural property located off Collins Hill Road, LENSWOOD SA. With large gardens and extensive natural scrub, it is something of an 'oasis' for the local fauna. Along with Koalas and Possums, it is home to an abundance of native birds, bees and a large population of frogs, all of whom seem to thrive in the environment provided.

When we purchased the property in December 2013, we soon became aware that all the various forms of wildlife were attracted here, mainly as the surrounding areas had been cleared for the production of fruit (apples/cherries). We decided that we would not use any commercial fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides on the property and we would garden organically, especially as we have a number of vegetable beds and fruit trees which we cultivate for own use.

As we arrived at the property in summertime, we soon noticed that there was a noticeable population of butterflies to be found there. With a little (actually a lot!) of help from the internet, we began to recognise some of them, although we haven't yet become proficient in identifying all the various types. At this stage, we believe that we've regularly seen the 'Australian Admiral', 'Australian Painted Lady', 'Common Brown', Common Grass-Blue' and the 'Meadow Argus', along with other more brown butterflies which we assume are various forms of 'Skipper'. This summer, we have even seen 'Monarchs' on the property for the first time.

Over the past 2 years, we have noticed a significant increase in the number of butterflies on the property which we believe is a result of our extensive planting of various types of plants, shrubs and flowers, as well as the extensive clearing of blackberry, thereby increasing the grassy areas. Our avoidance of chemicals also seems to have had an effect on butterfly numbers (we've noticed that our populations of frogs and bees have taken off as a result as well!).

We've carried out extensive planting to attract butterflies (and bees!) and have introduced a range of plants/flowers such as:

- Buddleja
- Aster
- Gaillardia
- Bracteantha
- Daisies (various)
- Salvia (various)
- Allium
- Rhodanthe
- Catmint (Nepeta)
- Tea Tree
- Westringia
- Helicyrsum
- Lilac
- *Hardenbergia violacea*
- Lavender
- Eremophila
- Bottlebrush
- *Acacia pycnantha*

Many of these plantings are still in the early stages of growth but will mature and spread over time.



continued next page

BUTTERFLY GARDENS

We have a number of garden areas around the residence which we have been making more 'butterfly friendly' through the planting of butterfly attracting flowers and shrubs and allowing grasses to grow. We have also placed large rocks for butterflies to land on and sun themselves on warm days, along with a number of strategically placed 'puddling bowls' to allow them more access to water. Again, no commercial fertilizers or herbicides are used on these areas, or indeed anywhere on the property.

'ZEKE'S GARDEN'

When our elderly and much loved cat, 'Zeke' passed away, we decided to bury him in his favourite sunny spot where he used to spend hours sleeping peacefully while soaking up the warm sun.

We covered his grave with river pebbles and erected a gravestone to mark his resting place but we soon noticed that butterflies were also using the pebbles and gravestone as a place to 'rest' and warm themselves in the sun. We didn't think Zeke would mind sharing so we began planting an assortment of daisies, lavenders and other flowers in the spot. Along with a puddling bowl, it is now even more butterfly friendly.



Note: Our Labradors 'Kiara' & 'Georgie', don't normally frequent this part of the garden, unless there's a camera around for a photo opportunity!

Editor Note: thanks to Jeff and Lynne for sharing their story with us. If you have a butterfly garden please tell us about it and send in some photos. It is only by sharing our experiences that we can learn from each other.

SOPHIES PATCH - EASTER

This year our promotion stall at Sophies Patch over Easter proved to be one of the most productive for book sales and membership applications. Welcome to our new members and very many thanks to the members who helped out during the three days.

During the three days very many visitors attended and were treated to a wonderful display of enormous and unique vegetables, cruising butterflies, bright flowers and Sophie's husband Robert's fantastic iron creations including silhouettes, sphere made from old tools, 'bicycle' arbor and much more.

Helpers included: Jan Forrest who set up the display on Saturday morning and gave a talk. Gil Hollamby who was there all through Sunday and also gave a talk, Margaret Lee, Linda Shmith, Gerry Butler, Sue Forrest, Anni Castine, Rosanna and Philip Taylor. Also thanks to Jill Davy who visited on Sunday afternoon and stayed to help Jan and Annie pack up.

It sounds like we had heaps of help however Sunday was only covered because Gil was there all day and there was a 'gap' at midday on the Monday. Half of the helpers were from the committee!

Please consider giving a couple of hours of your time when next we ask for help. It is not hard and you do not have to be a butterfly expert as the book is there for reference. any help you can give will be greatly appreciated.



Member Margaret Lee helps out at our stall on Saturday afternoon at Sophies Patch

WHAT'S FOR SALE? - WE NOW HAVE AN ON-LINE SHOP

BOOKS *"Attracting butterflies to your garden, what to grow and conserve in the Adelaide Region"*

NEW EDITION Published by BCSA 2016 - Our price \$25 (**financial members** members may purchase a book for \$20). Postage \$7. *"The Making of a Monarch"* has now been reprinted. Cost \$20 plus postage \$7.00.

DVD *"Butterfly Garden"* produced by Tracy Baron and Carolyn Herbert - \$20 each (BCSA financial members price \$15) postage and packaging \$7 One book plus one DVD postage \$15.

POSTERS *"Spiders and their allies of the Adelaide Region"* Published by BCSA 2014. \$10 a set of two, plus postage.

Single posters: *"Bats of SE South Australia"* and *"The Bilby - Endangered Species"* posters are available for \$5 each, plus postage.

Poster postage is \$12 for up to 6 posters. Posters are free to schools, but incur postage.





SITE SIGNS: Application form to register a butterfly site is available on the butterfly gardening website. Cost including postage \$50.

PLANT TAGS: See list and form available on website. \$2.00 per tag, includes plastic stake and postage.

If you would like to order any of our merchandise, obtain an order form for a site sign, plant tags or schools poster set, please email: info@butterflyconservationsa.net.au or write to the Secretary C/- South Australian Museum, North Terrace, ADELAIDE. 5000 or check out the **ON-LINE STORE** at www.butterflyconservationsa.net.au.

SELLING YOUR HOME?

Call Andreas on 0412 088 478

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-  **FREE** pre-sale renovation tips to enhance the value of your home!
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Email: andreas@michaelkris.com



Proud sponsor of BCSA

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Janet Polglase
 Russell Jones
 Russell Green
 Dr. Patrick Bagot
 Patrick Bentham
 Annette Morelli
 Petrah Kkirby-Bastians
 Andrew Howith
 Trudy Howith
 Zef Wood
 Ione Saint
 Michelle Clarson
 Louise Stockburger
 Hugh Wareham
 Robert and Annette McDougall
 Tanya Taylor-Cox
 Jill Roz
 Sue Marschall
 Jeff Lappin
 Paul Pierce
 Jasmyn aiken
 Roni Morrison
 Shaun and Tanya Leech
 Katrina Bownridge
 Sarah Barrey
 Nichole Livingstone
 Marie Phillis
 Maree Hartley



KONICA MINOLTA

Thanks to Chris Lane and Konica Minolta for their generosity in printing the BCSA newsletter.

Konica Minolta is a Landcare Australia National Partner



Jan Forrest and Linda Shmith on duty at the Mt. Pleasant Show during March, 2017, and thanks to Gerry Butler for again convening this promotion opportunity. If you live close to Mt. Pleasant please consider offering to help next year, should we participate.



Butterfly-Conservation-South-Australia



ButterflyConSA



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BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA Inc.

C/- South Australian Museum, North Terrace, ADELAIDE, 5000

Email: info@butterflygardening.net.au

Chairman: Mike Moore, chairman@butterflyconservationsa.net.au

Secretary and Newsletter editor: Jan Forrest OAM, ph H (08) 8297 8230.

email: secretary@butterflyconservationsa.net.au

Treasurer and Membership Officer: John Wilson treasurer@butterflyconservationsa.net.au

Committee: Andrew Lines, Gerry Butler (Publications) - publications@butterflyconservationsa.net.au, David Keane, Gil Hollamby, Lorraine Woodcock, Bernadette Johnson, Linda Shmith, Andrew Walters, Erin Fagan-Jeffries and Bryan Haywood (endangered species advocate). Consultants: Roger Grund and Peter McQuillan.

Public Officer: Beth Keane

DIARY DATES

COMMITTEE MEETINGS - Meetings are normally held bi-monthly (usually the second Monday of the month) at 6.00pm at a committee member's home. All members are welcome to attend. If you would like to attend please contact Secretary, Jan Forrest.

PUBLIC TALKS PROGRAM 2016: first Tuesday March - November, Clarence Park Community Centre 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start to 8.30pm.

Next talk: 6th June: Pollination. Many different insect groups and some animals (not just bees) have a major role in pollinating plants. Mike Gemmell from the SA Museum Discovery Centre will explore ways each of these groups perform this very important task.

WEB SITES

BCSA official website - Butterfly Conservation SA - www.butterflyconservationsa.net.au
 the former domain name **Butterfly Gardening** - www.butterflygardening.net.au is also still available and links directly to the new BCSA site.

South Australian Butterflies (R Grund private site) - <http://www.sabutterflies.org.au>
 (has been off-line however it will be back on-line shortly).

NRM Education - <http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtloftyranges/home>
 'Get involved' - 'Education' - for students, **school monitoring activities** / for educators.
 See also other regional NRM Education sites

A note about EMAIL

The committee acknowledges that some members prefer to receive their newsletter by mail (and pay extra for this).

If you are one of these members receiving a hard copy but do have an email address please consider provide it to the membership officer John Wilson to receive a reminder for the upcoming Public Talk and the occasional opportunistically planned excursion or other event.

