



BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA Inc.

NEWSLETTER

No. 16: March 2004

AUTUMN BEAUTY - SHOULDERED BROWN BUTTERFLY!

“Our Autumn butterfly the Shouldered brown has recently emerged down at the Penambol Conservation Park Butterfly Walk” says butterfly enthusiast and Bush Management Adviser for the Department for Environment and Heritage, Bryan Haywood.

This species is not common in the South East, being only found in the lower south east where the high rainfall natural forests occur, he said. Its larvae feed on a variety of native grasses including Wallaby, tussock and Kangaroo grass but also on a range of introduced species found around the edges of scrub and in plantations and paddocks.



Shouldered brown *Heteronympha penelope*
photo Bryan Haywood

The shouldered brown has a swift but elusive flight being very camouflaged when at rest in the leaf litter. Its name is derived from its dark shoulder marks as seen in the photo. The Shouldered brown is closely related to the more abundant Common brown butterfly seen over the Summer time.

We can all help this species by planting important food plants like Tussock and Kangaroo grasses and not using insecticides (esp. aerial spraying) around this time of year.

Keep an eye out for this little rippa when out and about this month.

Bryan Haywood

BCSA Mt.BOLD PLANTINGS

BCSA planted out 400 *Gahnia seiberiana* (Red-fruit Saw-sedge) in 10 cm tube stock at Mt Bold Reserve in August 2003 as part of a revegetation project sponsored by the Australian Government Envirofund. Planters were Roger Grund, Trevor Rowe, Tim Gudgeon (BCSA), Tom Hand (Friends of Scott Creek CP), and Shaun Kennedy (SA Water). Previously cleared creeklines were selected. This *Gahnia* is the caterpillar foodplant for the local saw-sedge skippers *Hesperilla donnysa* (Donnysa Sedge-skipper),

(Continued on page 5)



Scenic image above is of one of the cleared creeks planted with *Gahnia*.

Inside this issue:

- Autumn beauty—Shouldered Brown
- Mt.Bold Plantings
- Butterfly sighting
- Survey work on KI
- Urgent help required-2004 Australian Plants Society Autumn Plant sale
- Member Profile– Jill Davy-Warren
- Butterfly Net is working
- Check list of butterflies in the Mt.Bold Reservoir
- Two new butterflies described recently
- Notes and meetings
- New members

BUTTERFLY SIGHTING

Member Joyce West has reported the sighting of a Tailed Emperor in her back yard at Woodley Grove, McLaren Vale S.Australia on Thurs. Dec 18th 2003.

Joyce reported that the weather was sunny and the temperature about 30°C.



URGENT HELP REQUIRED 2004 AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY AUTUMN PLANT SALE

The 2003 autumn plant sale will be held at the Wayville Showgrounds from 10.00a.m.—5.00pm on Saturday 1st May and from 10.00am—4.00pm on Sunday 2nd May.

Butterfly Conservation SA have been invited to participate in this event and we plan to have a small stall promoting butterfly conservation including planting of larval food plants and nectar plants for adult butterflies.

KANGAROO ISLAND SURVEY

A survey recently conducted on Kangaroo Island by Roger Grund has unfortunately failed to locate *Ogyris idmo*.

To enable us to attend this event we need members to volunteer to help look after the stall. If you can assist in staffing the stall at any time during the times noted above, please contact Jan Forrest on 8297 8230. We will have handouts and reference books to assist with enquiries and you will also be teamed with a 'knowledgeable' butterfly member.

MEMBER PROFILE—JILL DAVY-WARREN

Dear Reader,
I joined the BCSA group because I was delighted to discover an Association concerned with the natural environment.

When growing up in Millicent in the South East of South Australia the butterfly was a much loved and integral part of the garden and scrub. Regrettably, my experiences of being able to observe and be enchanted by the natural world are not so available to my grandchildren living as they do in an urban environment and in an environment much changed by habitat destruction and pollution.

During the twenty five plus years of working life as a Teacher-Librarian, my interests saw the library shelves well supplied with books about insects, plants and birds and through the library many environmental activities such as composting, recycling, bird counts and planting native trees were initiated.

Now, in my retirement I am a mature age (very!) Bachelor of Environmental Studies student at Adelaide University with a particular interest in the urban environment as a place of biodiversity and refuge.

By encouraging the growing of 'butterfly friendly' gardens and promoting the use of such plants in parks, school grounds, dunes, farmland, road sides etc. the butterfly may then be a highly visible and beautiful symbol of a healthy biological community.

The great grandchildren may then be able to live in a much healthier natural environment.



The Butterfly 'Net' is working!

In the middle of February I received a frantic call from Chris Smith who lives in the Adelaide suburb of Sturt. She had over one hundred hungry Wanderer caterpillars stripping her cotton bushes and she was worried that they were running out of food and would not survive.

When I arrived I could see the reason behind the dilemma. Chris has lots magnificent Buddleia bushes to attract the butterflies but only three cotton bushes for them to lay eggs on and at this point there was scarcely a leaf left!

On my way home with about a hundred 'cats' I called in to collect more food from Trevor Rowe's garden in Warradale. Unfortunately this bucket full of cotton bush only lasted overnight so I was forced to use up the entire food source that I have growing in the front garden of my little unit. Once that was gone it was back to Trevor's for another lot!

During this hectic time I got a call from Ron Hall in Kadina in the mid-north of South Australia. He had recently lost all the Wanderer 'cats' in his garden in the 47 degree heat wave. He was coming to Adelaide and would happily bring me more food and pick up some of the 'cats' to take home. Regrettably at the last minute his plans changed. But he did not let me down and kindly arranged for the food to be sent to Adelaide on the bus. Waiting for me at the Central Bus Depot was a huge quantity of healthy swan plant carefully wrapped in wet paper and sealed in a large bucket. Thanks Ron, just in time too!

I housed these amazing 'eating machines' in four small fish tanks on a table in a warm sunny position. The 'cats' like to pupate on the netting which I use to cover the top of each tank. Within the week 90% of the caterpillars had pupated. This was a good success rate as, in my experience, they do not like to be disturbed during the last instar stage and these had endured a car trip and small containers.

I carefully packed over sixty pupae into a box, using plenty of foam and bubble wrap, and sent it by Overnight Express Post to the Butterfly House at the Melbourne Zoo. Robert Anderson ('Ando') was very pleased to receive this new strong stock which will eventually breed with and invigorate their Wanderer stock.

I kept the remaining pupae and when the butterflies emerged I took them to the Mitcham Primary School to show during my talk to the Grade 3 children. We all enjoyed the thrill of releasing these exquisite creatures in the school grounds.

Thanks to the Butterfly Network, a very satisfactory result.

Lois Hasenohr.

February, 2004



Wanderer Butterflies
Danaus plexippus plexippus
On *Buddleia*
Photo: Helen Woodward

The following table is a checklist of butterflies for the large Mt Bold Reservoir Reserve, an area that has never before been surveyed for butterflies. The table includes butterflies observed by Roger Grund during the flight seasons of 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 as part of a survey sponsored by Nature Foundation SA Inc. The list also includes references to some butterflies that historically have been observed in adjacent areas but have yet to be noted during the current survey. In combination with the adjacent Scott Creek Conservation Park, these two areas contain some of the most significant conserved areas of native vegetation along the Mt Lofty Range. Significant butterflies that have been observed during the above survey include *Hesperilla idothea clara*, *Motasingha trimaculata trimaculata*, *Taractrocera papyria papyria*, *Trapezites phigalia*, *Delias aganippe*, *Geitoneura acantha ocrea*, *Candalides heathi heathi*, *Jalmenus icilius* and *Ogyris genoveva genua*, butterflies that are now very rarely observed along the Mt Lofty Range. Unfortunately, the threatened species *Hesperilla chrysotricha*, *Acrodipsas brisbanensis*, *Hypochrysops ignitus*, *Ogyris idmo* and *Jalmenus lithochroa* were not observed.

A CHECKLIST OF BUTTERFLIES FOR MT BOLD RESERVOIR RESERVE

BUTTERFLY	COMMON NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS in S.A.	PRESENCE IN RESERVE
SKIPPERS			
<i>Hesperilla donnysa delos</i>	Donnysa Skipper	L	Localized near <i>Gahnia</i> foodplants
<i>Hesperilla idothea clara</i>	Flame Skipper	V	Very scarce. Males hilltop
<i>Motasingha trimaculata trimaculata</i>	Dingy four-spot Skipper	R	Very scarce, usually seen hilltopping
<i>Ocybadistes walkeri hypochlorus</i>	Southern Grassdart	L	Not yet recorded, but favourable habitat present
<i>Taractrocera papyria papyria</i>	White-banded Grassdart	R	Very scarce along open moist creeklines
<i>Trapezites phigalia</i>	Phigalia Skipper	V	Very scarce, usually seen hilltopping
TRUE BUTTERFLIES			
SWALLOWTAILS			
<i>Papilio anactus</i>	Dingy Swallowtail	L	The odd vagrant seen. Breeds in citrus orchards & urban gardens
WHITES AND YELLOWS			
<i>Belenois java teutonia</i>	Caper White	M	Migrant. Usually seen in spring
<i>Delias aganippe</i>	Wood White	R	Males hilltop. Did not appear to be fully resident
<i>Eurema smilax</i>	Small Grass-yellow	M	Migrant. Seen in spring
* <i>Pieris rapae rapae</i>	Cabbage White	C	Occasionally seen
BRUSHFOOT BUTTERFLIES			
<i>Danaus chrysippus petilia</i>	Lesser Wanderer	L	Occasionally seen
<i>Danaus plexippus plexippus</i>	Wanderer, Monarch	C	Usually seen near foodplants
<i>Geitoneura acantha ocrea</i>	Ringed Xenica	R	Scarce near the pine forests
<i>Geitoneura klugii</i>	Common Xenica	C	Common
<i>Heteronympha merope merope</i>	Common Brown	C	Very common

WEBSITE ADDRESS: 'Butterflies of South Australia'
(produced by Roger Grund) <http://www.chariot.net.au/rgrund/index.htm>

<i>Junonia villida calybe</i>	Meadow Argus	C	Common in spring and autumn
<i>Vanessa itea</i>	Australian Admiral	L	Occasionally seen
<i>Vanessa kershawi</i>	Australian Painted Lady	C	Common in spring

COPPERS AND BLUES

<i>Candalides heathi heathi</i>	Rayed Blue	R	Major colony in western part of reserve
<i>Erina acasta</i>	Blotched Dusky-blue	L	Common on hill tops
<i>Hypochrysops ignitus ignitus</i>	Fiery Jewel	V	Not seen. Probably extinct
<i>Jalmenus icilius</i>	Icilius Hairstreak	R	A very small colony exists in western part of reserve
<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	Long-tailed Pea-blue	L	Occasionally seen
<i>Lucia limbaria</i>	Small Copper	R	Not yet recorded, but favourable habitat locally present
<i>Nacaduba biocellata biocellata</i>	Two-spotted Line-blue	C	Scarce
<i>Neolucia agricola agricola</i>	Fringed Heath-blue	L	Very scarce in western part
<i>Ogyris amaryllis meridionalis</i> (coastal form)	Amaryllis Azure	C	Localized
<i>Ogyris genoveva genua</i>	Genoveva Azure	R	Localized
<i>Ogyris olane</i>	Olane Azure	L	Localized
<i>Theclinesthes miskini miskini</i>	Wattle Blue	L	Very scarce
<i>Theclinesthes serpentata serpentata</i>	Salt-bush Blue	C	Scarce
<i>Zizina labradus labradus</i>	Common Grass-blue	C	Very common near foodplants

CONSERVATION STATUS DEFINITIONS :

V=Vulnerable, **R**=Rare, **L**=Local (Uncommon), **C**=Common, **M**=Migrant.

(Continued from page 1) **MT. BOLD PLANTINGS**

Hesperilla idothea (Flame Sedge-skipper - vulnerable) and *Hesperilla chrysotricha* (Chrysotricha Sedge-skipper - vulnerable), and it is hoped this additional planting of *Gahnia* will aid in the continued survival of these skippers. Initial growth of the *Gahnia* was excellent with growth reaching 45 cm by January provided the plants were protected by plastic guards, and the survival rate was nearly 100 %. However the heat-wave during February caused a drying out of the exposed wetlands, making the large local kangaroo and deer population seek out the young green growth of the *Gahnia*. In doing this they dislodged many of the plastic bags and ate back the *Gahnia*, and also exposed the *Gahnia* to the hot drying sun causing the survival rate to plummet. Unfortunately BCSA volunteers were unable to maintain adequate vigilance to prevent this from happening.

Members who are available to assist with on-going work, weeding around new plantings and planting new *Gahnia* stock in Mt.Bold and other hills areas are asked to contact Chairman Roger Grund. We would like to compile a list of members who may be available, especially during the week as access to Mt.Bold area is only on working days. Please call Roger on 8374 1717 or email him on rgrund@chariot.net.au

Image right taken on 15 Jan 2004, showing growth of *Gahnia* over 5 months, (plastic bag height is 45 cm). (Photography Roger Grund).



TWO NEW BUTTERFLIES DESCRIBED RECENTLY

A recent paper published in Biological Journal of the Linnean Society 2004 **81**, 275-299 entitled "The taxonomy, ecology and conservation status of the Golden-rayed Blue: a threatened butterfly endemic to western Victoria, Australia" by Michael Braby describes a new species of Lycaenid butterfly. The known distribution range of this new species *Candalides noelkeri* is confined to an area near Natimuk in the Wimmera of western Victoria and recorded from two breeding sites 3 km apart, both flood plains: Lake Wyn Wyn Wildlife Reserve and Olivers Lake Flora Reserve. The larval food plant is the prostrate form of *Myoporum parvifolium* (Myoporaceae) (creeping myoporum. The proposed common name Golden-rayed Blue refers to the rich golden-brown scales distributed along the fore wing costa and veins on the upperside of both wings.

The second butterfly was originally collected by BCSA member Mike Moore and in 1988 he published his findings in the Victorian Entomologist **18**(2): 24-25. Subsequently Roger Grund in 1999 and

again with Lindsay Hunt in 2001, further observations and the butterfly life history were published in the Victorian Entomologist **29** (3):45-50 and **31**(5):75-82.

This latest paper by Roger Grund in the journal Australian Entomologist 2003 **30** 5—10 entitled "A new sub-species of *Croitana arenaria* E.D. Edwards (Lepidoptera: Hesperiiidae) from Eyre Peninsula, South Australia" raises the status of this butterfly to sub-species level.

The sub species is presently only known from two small areas on northern Eyre Peninsula and the sub-species name *pilepudla* is the local aboriginal name for a water hole in the Botenella Hills areas of the Eyre Peninsula, South Australia where adults and early stages are known to occur.



Croitana arenaria pilepudla
(LEPIDOPTERA: Hesperiiidae) from Eyre Peninsula,
South Australia

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA Inc.

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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

MEETINGS -

Committee meetings are held monthly (usually the second Monday of the month) at 6.00pm in the Urrbrae Wetlands Resource Centre, Cross Roads, Urrbrae. All members are welcome to attend. If you would like further information or receive an agenda please contact the Secretary Jan Forrest at the address above.

WEB SITE (produced by Roger Grund)

'South Australian Butterflies' <http://www.chariot.net.au/~rgrund/index.htm>

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Maria JOHNS
Sue CLARKE
Cathy HARTOG
Sylvia RUWOLDT
Yvonne BRIDGEMAN

