



BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA Inc.

NEWSLETTER

No. 19: January, 2005.

JAPANESE BUTTERFLIES



After a recent trip to Japan in March/April 2004 (spring time in Japan), I thought that members would be interested in my thoughts regarding some of the Japanese butterflies I was fortunate to see whilst there.

There are some lessons I think to be learned as these butterflies were all photographed in the very busy industrial & urban part of Tokyo, which I think has a much higher level of air pollution than in Adelaide (see photos this article).

The large black butterfly *Papilio macilentus* (below right) and the *Graphium sarpedon* (above) were photographed by myself in the Imperial Palace Gardens. The *Papilio xuthus* (below left) was photographed by my friend Max Jahn in the Tokyo Botanic Gardens. I regret that I am unable to give the common local names of these butterflies because the reference book I was using was, accept for the scientific names, all in Japanese.

My thoughts are that if, even in a large industrial city like Tokyo, where there is minimal space and food plants, and, I presume, restricted use of insecticides, butterflies can survive. Therefore with Adelaide's abundant parks, a big difference can be made if Local Governments planted the food plants. It is interesting to note that the *Graphium sarpedon* is found from Japan, throughout the islands and into North Queensland and is known as the Peacock Butterfly there.

Egon Shore.

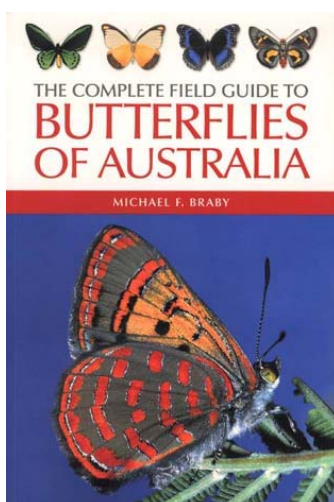


Inside this issue:

- Japanese Butterflies
- 2003-04 Financial Statements
- Field Guide to the Butterflies of Australia, MFBraby
- Field trip to Manning Reserve and Douglas Scrub
- Proposed butterfly awareness campaign
- Excursion to Myponga creek
- Australian Plant Society Show
- Christmas drinks at Waite Arboretum
- New Members
- Diary dates

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SOUTH AUSTRALIA FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1/7/03 - 30/6/04

Opening Balance as at 30/6/03			\$9,739.12
Less grant funds			<u>5,713.00</u>
BCSA funds			\$4,026.12
<u>Income</u>			
Membership fees	660.00		
Donations	20.00		
Sale of fact sheets	137.50		
Bank Interest	<u>18.53</u>	836.03	
<u>Expenses</u>			
Printing and Stationery	362.65		
Fact Sheets	500.00		
Bank and Government fees	7.40		
Friends of Parks Insurance	<u>10.00</u>	<u>880.05</u>	<u>(44.02)</u>
BCSA FUNDS			\$3,982.10
<u>Grants</u>			
National Heritage Trust	3,250.00		
Less Expenses	<u>1,519.36</u>	1,730.64	
Nature Foundation			
Onkaparinga Water Catchment		2,463.00	
Kangaroo Island Research Grant	1,800.00		
Less expenses Kangaroo Island Research	<u>1,800.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	
GRANT FUNDS			\$4,193.64
Balance of Account CPS Credit Union account as at 30/6/04			\$ 8,175.74



BUTTERFLIES OF AUSTRALIA

This great new field guide by Michael Braby was published recently by CSIRO Publishing and is distributed by Steve Parish Publishing.

It is the first complete field guide to all butterfly species on Australia's mainland and its remote islands. Each of the 416 currently identified species is illustrated with colour photographs and each species has a distribution map and flight period chart.

The introduction to the book covers adult structure, classification, distribution and habitats, as well as life cycle and behaviour. There is also a checklist of all species, a glossary, a bibliography and indexes of common and scientific names.

The book sells for \$39.95 and is available at the SAMuseum shop.

Congratulations to the author and to all involved in the publication of this book it certainly is a 'must buy' for all who have an interest in Australian butterflies.

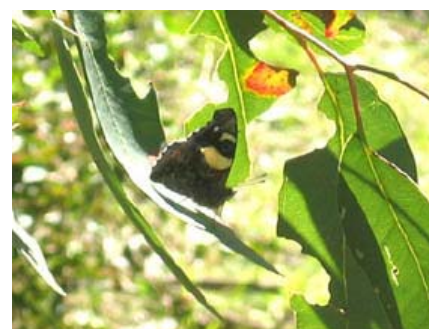
FIELD TRIP TO MANNING RESERVE and DOUGLAS SCRUB both near McLAREN FLAT SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 19th September, 2005.

Eight members met at Manning Reserve, operated by the South Australian Field Naturalist Association and were treated to a guided walk by Chairman Roger Grund, the park is not very large however five species of butterfly were sighted including the Australian Admiral (*Vanessa itea*), Painted Lady (*Vanessa kershawi*), Two-spotted Line-blue (*Nacaduba biocellata*), Cabbage White (*Pieris rapae*) and Small Grass-yellow (*Eurema smilax*). Several species of orchids were also found including the two featured below the Donkey Orchid and Fire Orchid *Pyrorchis nigricans* only 10 cm tall.

The group then proceeded to the Guides SA property Douglas Scrub where we walked the nature trail to the top of the hill to overlook the surrounding vineyards. We also sighted the same five butterfly species, a red bellied black snake and a number of orchids.

A barb-e-cue lunch followed at the picnic shelter at Douglas Scrub where the group swapped ideas for nest boxes, bird watching, butterfly spotting, bush care and propagation. Overall it was an excellent day and members enjoyed the social get together.

Jan Forrest



Above: Donkey Orchid, Australian Admiral
 Right: Painted Lady
 Below: Group at Manning Reserve.
 Photos: Jan Forrest



Fire Orchid *Pyrorchis nigricans*
 Photos: Jan Forrest



BRING BUTTERFLIES BACK TO ADELAIDE CAMPAIGN

Overview:

The purpose of the campaign is to promote the conservation of butterflies by encouraging the planting of host and nectar plants:

- to agencies already involved in conservation and re-vegetation programs
- to local government and
- to raise the awareness of butterfly conservation in the community including schools, youth groups and to the general public.

Planning is in the early stages—these are our thoughts so far.....

Time frame: It is proposed the campaign planning and implementation will take three years culminating in a ‘Butterfly Month’ in October 2007 simultaneously in the City, local councils, schools and youth groups.

Phase One (early to mid 2005):

Devise logo and catchy title

Ascertain conservation agencies/people to be involved and make contact

Devise resources including:

- lists of plants/butterflies for specific habitats
- information on individual butterflies

Preferably to be combined into a book, or fact sheets, resource preparation on-going.

Ascertain funding required and seek funding

Phase Two (mid 2005 – to end 2006)

Involve nurseries and propagation agencies to start propagating appropriate plants.

January 2006: Contact agencies already involved in revegetation projects and assist individual agencies and councils to develop a ‘butterfly plan’ for their area. Encourage propagation and planting of appropriate plants and promote butterfly gardening exhibitions at appropriate agencies.

Phase Three (2007)

March 2007: Launch Schools and youth groups project – (book prize)

October 2007: Launch ‘butterfly month’ and the book/resources

Showcase ‘on-ground works’ already undertaken by local government, conservation agencies (landcare, coastcare, urban forests etc.), schools and youth groups.

Exhibition “Where have all the butterflies gone?” – venue to be decided

Holiday activity programs to promote butterflies at appropriate agencies in the city and metro area.

Major promotion to the general public

- at agencies all around Adelaide including
- local councils
- schools
- North Terrace Institutions.

Would you like to become involved?

Help is now requested from members who may like to become involved in this campaign. In particular members with an existing interest in propagation or revegetation of a specific area. Or members with specific skills or knowledge in plants, gardening, promotion, gaining sponsorship, fundraising, publication preparation, youth work, schools etc.

If you would like to become involved either for the whole campaign or for a small part of it please contact campaign co-ordinator and BCSA secretary Jan Forrest.

This is an exciting project for BCSA and your support however small will be appreciated.

<p>WEBSITE ADDRESSES: ‘Butterflies of South Australia’ http://www.chariot.net.au/rgrund/index.htm BCSA http://www.chariot.net.au/BCSA/index.htm</p>

MYPONGA EXCURSION

A hardy group of five members plus our host and hostess Carol and Robin DeVore braved a warmish (hot) morning in November to visit the gorge below the Myponga Reservoir site to check out how the 2004 *Gahnia* plantings survived.

This year the Myponga Reservoir was full by late July which is great for SA Water and Adelaide residents, however it was not so good for the new plants. Water was not released when the dam became full so that when the very heavy rainfall came at the beginning of August SA Water began releasing water through all three sluice gates, continuing for about a week. The water level in the creek below rose up to 1.5 - 2 metres during this period.

This had a devastating effect on the creek line below the reservoir wall and the new plants did not have a chance. Much of the vegetation below the Reservoir wall was 'laid flat'. The butterfly larvae make a shelter in the *Gahnia* leaves and whilst they can protect themselves from inundation for a day or so, extended submersion of the plant and shelter along with fast flowing water are not a good recipe for survival.

Again, once new plants are established they can survive reasonable flows of water however not a 1.5 - 2 metre torrent over six days.

Fortunately our butterfly guru Roger Grund was able to locate one pupa of the threatened Chrysotricha Skipper (*Hesperilla chrysotricha*) on one of the very large *Gahnia* tussocks so we are pleased to report that at least one butterfly has survived. Concern is expressed however at the lack of water flow control demonstrated by Reservoir management, as land owners below the Reservoir dam wall would prefer a constant environmental flow so simulate the normal creek flow during winter rather than spasmodic high flooding which wrecks everything.

Of the 120 new plants we could only locate six that were planted a slightly out of the creek line itself, the rest just got washed away! We still consider the planting of *Gahnia* in this area to be vital for the survival of this endangered butterfly species however would like a commitment from Reservoir management that a more controlled approach to the release of water can be undertaken in the future.

Other butterflies flying in the gorge included the Caper White (*Belenois java*), Cabbage White (*Pieris rapae*), Common Brown (*Heteronympha merope*), Klug's Xenica (*Geitoneura klugii*), Painted Lady (*Vanessa kershawi*), Meadow Argus (*Junonia villida*), Wanderer (*Danaus plexippus*), Lesser Wanderer (*Danaus chrysippus*), Common Grass Blue (*Zizina labradus*) and a male Amaryllis Azure (*Ogyris amaryllis*) was feeding on flowers in the DeVore garden above the gorge.

It was a most enjoyable morning and thanks to Carol and Robin for showing us all around this sheltered piece of their property. Also, congratulations to them both for the fantastic work they are undertaking in this area in eradicating gorse bush, blackberries and other exotic weeds.

Jan Forrest



Carol De-Vore shows excursion group the major damage caused by flooding of the creek line.

Photo: Jan Forrest



Roger Grund inspects a very large plant of *Gahnia* for evidence of the Chrysotricha skipper.

Photo: Jan Forrest

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY FLOWER SHOW AND PLANT SALE

Thanks to members who looked after Butterfly Conservation SA stall at the October Australian Plants Society Flower Show and Plant Sale at Wayville.

This show is held twice a year in March and October. We are keen to have a presence at each show as it an ideal opportunity to promote 'butterfly gardening' however committee members are not always available to look after the stall.

So, if any member is planning to visit the flower show and are available to spend an hour or so promoting butterfly gardening please advise the Secretary Jan Forrest and we will **add your name to the roster**.



Members Maria Johns and Lois Hasenohr at the October Australian Plants Society Flower

CHRISTMAS DRINKS AT WAITE ARBORETUM

On December 13 the invitation for Christmas drinks at the *Capparis mitchelli* tree at the Waite Arboretum to look at the progress of Caper White butterfly (*Belenois java*) breeding on the tree, was taken up by a dozen or so members. Only about half a dozen butterflies were found however many hundreds of small larvae and rafts of eggs were located. The butterflies should start emerging early to mid January.



The event was so successful we have decided to make this an annual event. So put the first Monday of December in your diary and come along to see if the Caper White butterflies are breeding.



Above: *Capparis mitchelli* tree (the lighter one on the right) with members of BCSA. Left: eggs of the Caper White butterfly. Photos: Jan Forrest

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA Inc.

Chairman: Roger Grund

Secretary and Newsletter Editor: Jan Forrest OAM C/- South Australian Museum, North Terrace, ADELAIDE, 5000 ph (08) 82077503.

email < forrest.jan@saugov.sa.gov.au >

Treasurer : Lois Hasenohr , 13/4 Randolph Avenue, PARKSIDE. 5063

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 **bi-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 SITES

'Butterfly Conservation SA Inc.' <http://www.chariot.net.au/~bcsa/index.htm>

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

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Mervyn CHAPPEL

Julianne DAVY

Glenda HOULDSWORTH

Andy YOUNG

