



# BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA Inc.

## NEWSLETTER

No. 26: April, 2007.

### SAD LOSS TO BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA

It is with great sadness that we report the deaths of Lindsay Hunt and Robert Fisher OAM. Lindsay was a foundation member of BCSA and Bob Fisher was our Patron.

Both Lindsay and Bob have left a wonderful legacy. Their lifetime work in rearing, recording and photographing the life histories of South Australian butterflies are important historical records and their images will be the foundation of our present campaign to 'Bring the Butterflies back to Adelaide' as well as providing important resources for future educational and scientific publications, displays and exhibitions.

Lindsay Hunt died on 4th December, 2006 after battling motor neuron disease for many years and Bob Fisher died on Australia Day, 26th January, he had been in ill-health for several months.

The committee of Butterfly Conservation SA pays tribute to these two wonderful supporters of the conservation of butterflies and South Australia will be poorer for having lost their contribution and knowledge.

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Above: Robert (Bob) Fisher OAM with some of his collection.  
Right: Lindsay Hunt on a fishing trip with one of the largest Mulloway ever to be caught along the Coorong.



BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA Inc. for membership enquiries and annual membership payments (\$10):  
Treasurer, 9 Parkers Road, TORRENS PARK 5062

## UPDATE ON GAHNIA PLANTINGS

Since our last update on our *Gahnia* plantings (Newsletter No 16: March 2004) we have recently rechecked two of our planting sites. At our annual Xmas gathering on 4 December 2006 at the Waite Arboretum it was noticed our experimental mixed plantings of *Gahnia trifida* (x24) and *Gahnia sieberiana* (x2) (done in September 2003) were now about 1m tall and in excellent condition. Unfortunately there were no signs of the *Hesperilla* sedge skippers that utilise these plants as foodplants, although one larval shelter had been seen at the previous 2005 Xmas gathering.

On 31 August 2006 our *Gahnia sieberiana* plantings at the Mt Bold Reserve were examined (after the driest winter on record – a quarter of the normal rainfall). The condition of the plantings was highly variable, with 180 live *Gahnia* counted from the original planting of 400 (August 2003). About 25% of the 180 were in good condition with growth of about 1m, another 25% were in good condition but lightly grazed, while the remaining were severely over-grazed by the resident kangaroos, deer and also rabbits now making a comeback. These plantings were well inhabited by *Hesperilla donnysa*. We have not been back to check if the plantings escaped the fires of 10-11 January 2007, as we are no longer allowed into the reserve due to security concerns.



Above: *Gahnia* plantings at Waite Arboretum December 2006  
Right: *Gahnia sieberiana* plantings at Mt. Bold Reservoir Aug 2006.



Roger Grund

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## UPDATE ON BUTTERFLY CAMPAIGN TO 'BRING THE BUTTERFLIES BACK TO ADELAIDE'

**Website:** our butterfly gardening website is under preparation by Ecocreative a design firm we have engaged to undertake this project. It is anticipated it will be completed by the end of June. Log onto [www.butterflygardening.net.au](http://www.butterflygardening.net.au) to see the progress being made.

**Book:** text and images have been forwarded to Ecocreative and book layout has commenced. It is anticipated the launch of the book will take place in September. Thanks to the society members and other members of the community for their support in providing outstanding images of plants for both the website and the book.

**Launch:** It is hoped the launch of the campaign and website will be held mid June, details are still being worked out. If you are available to assist with the launch please contact Jan Forrest 08) 8297 6230.

**Exhibition:** This is in the planning stage however dates of 22nd September to mid November have been allocated at the South Australian Museum.

## ROBERT (Bob) HILSON FISHER OAM

1922—2007

Robert Fisher's interest in butterflies dates back to his childhood in Adelaide when he used to go on collecting trips on his bicycle.

Bob's association with the South Australia Museum started in the 1930's when he became acquainted with Herbert Womersley in the Entomology Department and then with Norman Tindale who accompanied him on many field excursions looking for butterflies and encouraged his interest in these insects.

A pharmacist by profession, (a career chosen by his parents), Bob returned to Adelaide University to study Physics, Zoology and Geology with the intention of completing a Science degree. Family and business obligations forced him to abandon this potential career but he maintained a lifelong interest in the study of butterflies and their relationship with the environment. He collected extensively in Australia and New Guinea as well as the USA and Canada. He personally reared the majority of SA specimens and researched the life histories of several of them for the first time. A keen photographer, he extensively photographed butterflies and their early stages.

As an authority on Australian butterflies, he is the author of two books published on this subject.

“Butterflies of South Australia” – a 272 page book with colour and half tone illustrations, published by the SA Government in 1978 for the Handbooks Committee.

“A Field Guide to Australian Butterflies” – a 254 page book with colour photographs, published in 1995.

All of the photographs in these books were his own work.

He completed a manuscript with accompanying photos for a third book “The Remarkable World of Butterflies” but was unable to find a publisher.

He is also the author of some 25 papers and articles on butterflies and nine reports commissioned by Government authorities, examining the butterfly fauna of various national park and conservation areas.

In recognition of his work on butterflies Bob was appointed as an Honorary Research Associate in Entomology at the South Australia Museum in 1986, and in 1988 he was appointed an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of South Australia for services to the Society. Also in 1988 he was given the J.C. Le Souef award by the Entomological Society of Victoria for contributions by an amateur to Entomology.

In 1994 Bob was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for his service to Entomology, particularly through the conservation of endangered species of butterflies in South Australia.

In 1995 he was appointed by CSIRO Division of Entomology, Canberra as Regional Adviser for South Australia in the production of the book “Butterflies of Australia : Their identification, Biology and Distribution.

In March 1999 he was appointed as Patron and Honorary Member of Butterfly Conservation SA Inc in recognition of his outstanding work for butterfly conservation over many years.

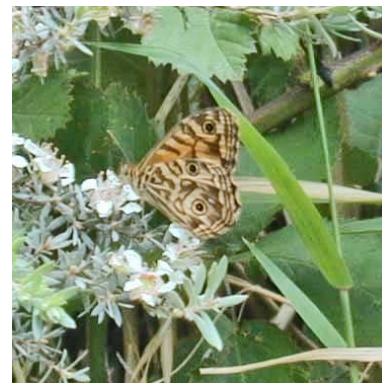
Bob presented his collection of some 3,600 butterfly specimens to the South Australia Museum in 1986. As an experienced natural history photographer, Bob was responsible for displays from time to time in the Museum. His extensive library of colour transparencies, including Australian butterflies and their early stages (eggs, larvae and pupae) is now also held by the Museum for educational, scientific and exhibition purposes.



Bob Fisher at the South Australian Museum entomological collection with Senior Collection Manager (and Secretary of BCSA) Jan Forrest



**MORIALTA CONSERVATION RESERVE**



Photos: Left the group at Morialta Conservation Reserve and above, Ringed Xenica *Geitonura acantha* on *Leptospermum*

**VALE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL**



Photos: Our host Heather Whiting with members and a portion of the Butterfly Garden at Vale Park Primary School

During the visit to Vale Park Primary School we looked through the school's large established Butterfly Garden, and the other themed native gardens around the school. The plants in this garden can theoretically attract at least 21 species of butterfly.

Afterwards, the group visited nearby revegetation sites with Heather Whiting including Vale Park - 'Our Patch' adjacent to the Ascot Avenue Road Bridge over the River Torrens. This site has been revegetated by different groups for the past 9 years, with Heather coordinating revegetation activities since 2000.

## LINDSAY F. HUNT

1949 - 2006

Lindsay was throughout his life interested in Australian natural history, he loved fishing and he liked to use his camera to record what he saw and found interesting. He was a friendly, thinking person and he had the ability to attract people to him and work with him but he also gave of himself and his time.

I met Lindsay thirteen years ago. He had contacted Bob Fisher at the museum about this "orange" butterfly that was living and breeding on his Hills property. Bob, who was always keen to encourage new people into the Lepidopteral field so he gave me his name and asked me if I would like to talk to him.

This I did. The butterfly turned out to be the Small Copper - *Lucia limbaria* and I talked to him for a while about the interesting historical record of this butterfly in SA. He then shyly asked did I want to see some photographs that he had taken. We were immediately impressed with the shots and even more so when he showed us some shots of *Trapezite phigalia* that he had taken in the Belair National Park. *T. phigalia* was a butterfly that I was very interested in, so we there and then determined that we would go on our first expedition together.

So started a close friendship and working relationship though I must say that we never did do as much together as we had hoped, firstly because my job got in the way and then Lindsay's illness.

He started off as most of us do, a novice, but within the next few years because of interest and hard work quickly became a reference figure and at the time of his death a major reference and worker for SA butterflies.

During that time Lindsay raised and photographed at home almost every SA butterfly, gaining important knowledge into the habits and activities of each species. On field trips he was involved with the discovery of new species and subspecies for SA, for the rediscovery of "lost" species and extended the ranges of many (if not most) of the Lepidopteral fauna.

Most importantly he photographed much of what he has done and seen, leaving with us a wonderful and permanent legacy. His work will be the pictorial heart of countless talks over the next twenty to fifty years.

Lindsay loved his butterfly work were he was an involved, fastidious worker working to make his efforts the very best that could be done. Lindsay wrote or co-authored a number of papers on SA butterflies and moths and as a member of the Butterfly Conservation Society of SA he was involved in the writing, editing and illustrating of many of the Society's publications.

Lindsay became progressively more debilitated with his disease over the last six years but with the help of friends and acquaintances kept producing prodigious volumes of work right up until the end of his life.

Lindsay was one of the most active workers on SA butterflies and his illness and early death has been a loss to us all.



Some of Lindsay's photos: *Nacaduba biocellata* (Double-spotted Line-blue); Grassland Copper; *Polyura sempronius* (Tailed Emperor) and *Taractropera papyria* (White-banded Grass-dart).

Mike Moore

## FRIENDS OF PARKS GRANT

Thanks to a grant from the 'Friends of Parks' (of which BCSA is a member) we were recently able to purchase a set of display boards.

The grant provided just under half of the funds required and the balance needed to purchase the boards came from members funds. The boards will be a wonderful asset and have already been used at the Wallaroo Moonta Garden Club Field day.



## NEW RESOURCE FOR TEACHERS

Jackie Meirs from Magill Primary School has just created a new 20-page website on Butterflies of Adelaide, as a resource for a butterfly eTeacher event being planned. The link is: [http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/jmresources/butadelaide/Butterflies\\_of\\_Adelaide.html](http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/jmresources/butadelaide/Butterflies_of_Adelaide.html)

The site provides an overview of electronic resources currently available and is an excellent 'one-stop shop' for everyone interested in butterflies.

Other websites compiled by Jackie include: <http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/jmresources> and <http://lcms.central.sa.edu.au/mpsmoodle/>

## EXCURSIONS

An excursion to Aldinga Scrub is presently being planned for sometime in September. Look for details in the next newsletter. If you have ideas for a new excursion please contact Jan Forrest.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 13th August, 2007 at 7.30pm at Urrbrae Wetlands Resource Centre, Cross Roads URRBRAE.

**Guest Speaker:** David Keane who will talk on **"Quarry design, rehabilitation and revegetation"**

At the AGM all officers of the Association will be declared vacant.

The committee is presently quite small and new members are urgently needed.

Please consider accepting a position on the committee; we only meet bi-monthly so it is not an arduous task.

Hope to see as many members as possible on the 13th August.

## BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA Inc.

**Chairman:** Roger Grund

**Secretary and Newsletter Editor:** Jan Forrest OAM C/- South Australian Museum, North Terrace, ADELAIDE, 5000 ph (08) 8207 7503.

email <forrest.jan@saugov.sa.gov.au> or <forrestjan@adam.com.au>

**Treasurer :** 9 Parkers Road, TORRENS PARK. 5062

## 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 Secretary Jan Forrest.

**Next Meeting:** Monday 4th June at 6.00pm.

**Annual General Meeting:** Monday 13th August, 2007 at 7.30pm.

## WEB SITES

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

'South Australian Butterflies' (Roger Grund) - <http://www.chariot.net.au/~rgrund/index.htm>

'Butterfly Watch' - SAMuseum website [www.samuseum.sa.gov.au](http://www.samuseum.sa.gov.au) then click on 'Media' then 'online exhibitions'.

"Butterfly Gardening" (still under construction) - [www.butterflygardening.net.au](http://www.butterflygardening.net.au)

Teacher Resources (Jackie Miers) - [http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/jmresources/butadelaide/Butterflies\\_of\\_Adelaide.html](http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/jmresources/butadelaide/Butterflies_of_Adelaide.html)

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Kate Hubmayer (Black Forest Primary School)  
Jacqueline Dekker  
Jan Frammy  
Mary Lindsay  
Val Hunt, (Adelaide Hills Resource Group)  
Lyle Kirkegaard  
Direk Schools (butterfly group)  
Alex Randell

## IN MEMORIAM:

Lindsay F. Hunt  
Robert H. Fisher  
Frank Brooks

