



BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA INC.

NEWSLETTER

No. 34: May, 2009.

'BUTTERFLY CHALLENGE' INTRODUCED



The next phase of the 'Bring the Butterflies Back' campaign a 'Butterfly Challenge' for school children and the community was introduced recently at the Tea Tree Plaza Shopping Centre as part of the Backyard Biodiversity program promoted by the South Australian Museum Roadshows.

The challenge is in three stages:
FIND OUT
TAKE ACTION
SPREAD THE WORD

A Passport has been produced for children 5 - 8 years using a cartoon caterpillar character 'Salty' (caterpillar of the Saltbush Blue Butterfly). The passport can be downloaded from the South Australian Museum website along with resources to assist teachers, leaders and parents help their children to take part in the 'Butterfly Challenge'.

Go to: www.samuseum.sa.gov.au
(What's On/online exhibitions).

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Work on providing information for Primary School age children and their teachers is presently underway and should be available in August.

Other resources are being planned, these include a certificate for downloading by those who have successfully completed the challenge.

'Salty' is just one of twelve cartoon characters developed by supporter Paul Rutter which will feature in several of these resources

We presently have 8 registered Butterfly Sites at schools and the introduction of the Butterfly Challenge will, we believe, increase awareness of Butterfly Gardening in the community.



BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA. INC. for membership enquiries and annual membership payments (\$10):
Treasurer: 20 Thornton Street, KENSINGTON, 5068

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held on 10th August 2009
at the Urrbrae Wetlands Resource Centre,
Cross Road, URRBRAE
at 7.30pm

Guest speaker to be advised
please bring a plate of supper

We would be delighted to have some new members on the committee and are keen for present members to re-nominate. Please consider accepting nomination for a committee position by completing the nomination form included with this newsletter. The committee meets bi-monthly.

FEES and MEETINGS

An item for discussion at the AGM will be fees and meetings. The following suggestions have come from two members.

FEES: the introduction of a life membership fee; extending payment options to up to five years in advance; a higher annual fee for those that receive the newsletter via post.

The rationale for the last suggestion being that members who received their newsletters via email are subsidising those that have them posted. For interest - approximately one third of members received their newsletter via email.

MEETINGS: would members be interested in attending general meetings with a guest speaker program? If so how often?

BACKGROUND: Our annual fee is presently \$10 per annum. For this, members receive four newsletters either posted or emailed. We also hold one or two excursions annually and usually have a guest speaker at the AGM.

YOUR VIEWS: If you have views on the above please send your comments to the secretary and come to the AGM to have your say.

AGM 10th August at 7.30 Urrbrae Wetlands Resource Centre, Cross Roads, Urrbrae.

CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

Due to an oversight, changes to the constitution approved at the 2007 AGM are not 'official' because they have not been lodged with the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs in accordance with the Incorporations Association Act.

Accordingly, the committee agreed to re-submit the proposed changes to the 2009 AGM and if accepted, to ensure the changes were registered with the OCBA within the specified time frame, following the AGM.

The changes are as follows: insert the word 'families' viz.

5. Membership shall be open to individuals, families and bodies who are actively interested and willing to support BCSA.....

two new clauses 5e and 5f.

5 e. Family Membership

i. Family Membership shall be available and may include up to two adults and up to three dependant children.

ii. Adults included in family membership shall have voting rights equivalent to those of an individual member and may hold office on the committee simultaneously. Herein after the word member applies equally to family membership.

f. The BCSA committee may invite any existing member to have free membership as an Honorary Life Member, such Honorary Life Member may also be invited to become ex-officio on the committee, with vote.

Re-number following clauses g. h. i. and j.



Thanks go to the team (Penny, Bill, Roger, Jan, Jill, Pam and Michelle) who looked after the BCSA stall at the Australian Plants Society show and sale at Wayville 2nd and 3rd May.

BUTTERFLY CONFERENCE IN NEW ZEALAND

The Monarch Butterfly New Zealand Trust held its second Conference-‘YOU can help New Zealand’s Butterflies’ Conference in Tauranga in the Bay of Plenty (North Island) over Easter this year Jill Davy, committee member of Butterfly Conservation SA visited the conference to see what they were doing for butterfly conservation. And she found that they are doing a great deal.

The Trust was formed about three years ago and has a membership of approximately 750. It was formed when it was realised that at Butterfly Bay (Bay of Islands, North Island) the Monarch Butterfly’s key overwintering habitat was to be developed as a holiday resort - putting the ‘butterfly trees’ in danger.

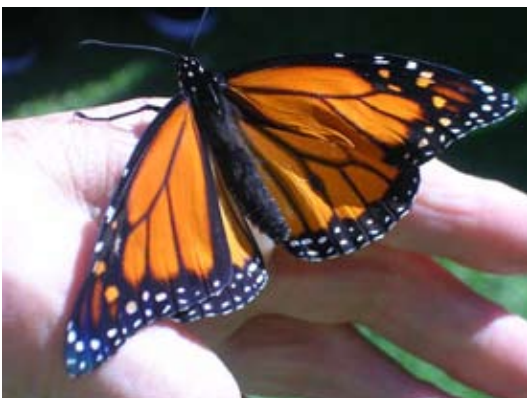
Originally four women from the town of Russell aimed to preserve the habitat but an entomologist’s survey showed that fewer and fewer butterflies were overwintering there. A Grant of \$5000 from the Mazda Foundation was obtained (to tag the butterflies) to find out why the butterfly numbers were in serious decline.

The aims of the Trust have expanded from primarily the Monarch to include all Lepidoptera species, nationwide, viz.

- * to raise public awareness and increase biodiversity
- * to maintain, protect and increase biodiversity within NZ so that the natural habitat of the Monarch Butterfly and other Lepidoptera species are protected and enhanced
- * to fund and seek funding for research and education projects
- * to increase opportunities for members of communities and visitors to NZ to enjoy and experience the natural habitat of the Monarch Butterfly
- *to provide information to protect the Monarch (also known as The Wanderer) and other Lepidoptera species.

Membership has grown rapidly to over 750 members and through a network of newsletters, website, forum and email list the information is shared. The Trust is heavily involved in a schools educational program. The Conference was one of outstanding quality and dedicated people. Many at the conference were envious of ‘all those Australian butterflies, that you must have in your gardens!’. Jill had to say that was not exactly the case but BCSA was working hard towards that objective.

A keynote speaker was Dr. Barrie Frost, Ontario University Canada, Dept. of Psychology and Physiology. His interest in animal migration was because ‘migration is a neurological event’ and his New Zealand Shearwaters migration research led to a fascination with migration of the Monarch butterflies.



A newly emerged conference participant!



Introduction to the convention - a flower arrangement which includes strings of many monarch chrysalis which kept emerging over the two days.

Dr Frost said that Monarchs use the sun as a compass (as do other migrating animals); if overcast it is possible they use the earth’s magnetic field (but no concrete evidence of this); they use tail winds and visual clues; they see polarized light patterns in the sky and possibly nectar and host plants have small cells that are sensitive to polarized light. To answer the intriguing question as to how the butterflies return to exactly the same trees (in Mexico) experiments are suggesting that they leave an odour on the pine needles.

Another keynote speaker was Dr George Gibbs, (author of 'Gondwana Ghosts') and internationally recognised photographer, from Wellington NZ who spoke on the origin of NZ Butterfly Fauna. He discussed why there were so few butterflies in NZ; there are only 2 of the 6 Butterfly Families; no Whites or Yellows, no Swallowtails and curiously no Skippers whereas Australia has several hundred species. Many New Zealand butterfly species may have been lost during the many ice ages due to being warmth adapted. Eucalypts in New Zealand were also lost during the Ice Ages. 80 million years ago the Tasman Sea widened and NZ became an entity two thousand kms from another land.



The Ringlets (with circular eye spots) diverged from Australia 1 million years ago and all are larval grass feeders in the high country South Island. The Red Admiral invaded from Australia in the last 2 million years. The Yellow Admiral regularly disperses from Australia. Moths in NZ are 90 percent endemic and 10 percent introduced, migrants, vagrants or adventives.



Another speaker Primary Principal Kathryn Rowe spoke of her belief that 'Teaching is about wonderment and awe' and told of classroom success using the monarch life cycle with disruptive students.

Part of the conference was a visit to Te Pauna Quarry Park Tauranga, a prize winning Community Garden of regional significance converted from a disused quarry, open all year with gardens, sculptures, walks, picnics, native arboretum and a butterfly attracting garden. The garden also featured a monarch house (pictured below) where monarch butterflies are raised and a nettle house to rear the indigenous Red Admiral butterfly *Vanessa gonerilla*.

A feature of the garden was a Wheelchair Sensory Walk where visitors could smell and touch the flowers and watch the butterflies.

If spending time at Auckland Airport take a ten minute walk to Butterfly Creek Tropical Butterfly house, Cafe, train rides and playground.



CONSERVATION OF MOTHS – Part 1 by D. Keane

Why do moths matter?

Moths play an important role in the ecology of the world and perform a vital role in keeping nature in balance. There are over a quarter of a million species known, with many more that have not been named or even recorded. There are billions of moths out there at night when we are sleeping, and surely there must be a reason for them. If moths were all gone tomorrow what would happen to the ecology? What would take their place to pollinate billions of flowers that need pollination at night? What would happen if all those plants disappeared, leaving wildlife devoid of this food source? Would this see a decline in herbivore animals or animals that feed on moths? Some plants may adapt but many endemic, specialised and threatened plants would be lost for ever. Moths eat a prodigious amount of vegetation, help to control weeds, recycle and compost the litter on the forest floor. Hate them or love them, the world needs moths.



Left: Dark Bordered Beauty - Europe
 Below:
 Angled Satin moth – South Australia
 Buff Arches - England
 Green Sand-grass - Siberia (rare)



References:

The Natural History of Moths (1997) by Mark Young, Enjoying Moths (2001) by Roy Leverton, Butterflies & Moths (1977) by Dr VJ Stanek and Dr B Turner, The Dict.of Butterflies & Moths (1981)Watson/Whalley

INSPIRATIONS FROM A BUTTERFLY BOOK

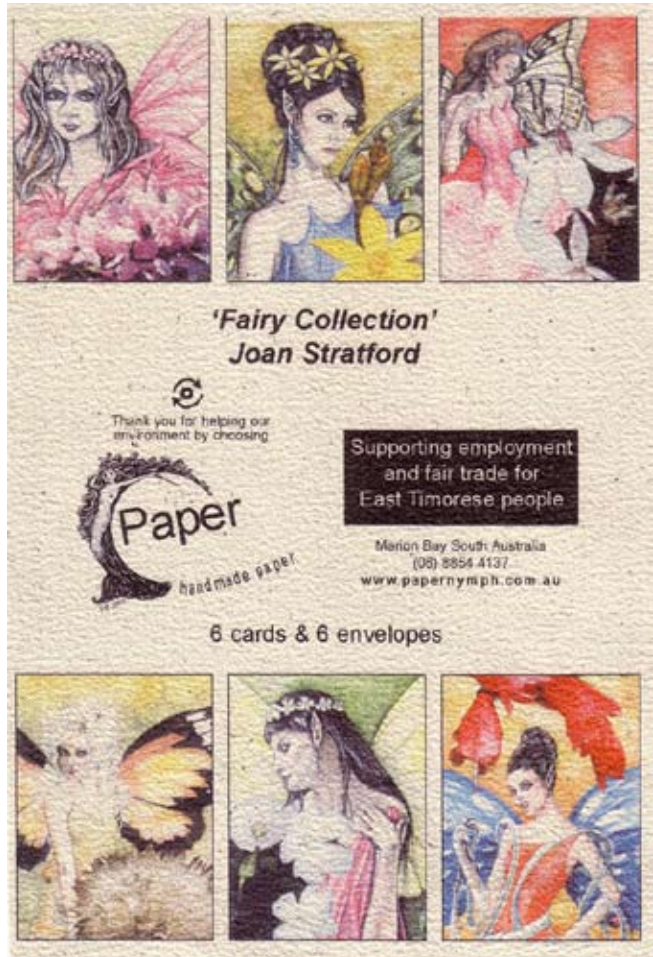
by Joan Stratford

Joan Stratford, a BCSA member, is a leading local artist who is passionate about preserving the natural environment and our beautiful butterflies.

The 'Fairy Collection' was inspired by the wonderful pictures in our new book 'Attracting Butterflies to your Garden', available from BCSA Inc.

This collection of six cards and envelopes can be purchased from Joan (08) 8265 0625 or from www.papernymph.com.au and by phone to Traci (08) 8874 4137.

All proceeds go to supporting employment and fair trade for the East Timorese people. Materials are printed on recycled paper.



BCSA NATURE QUIZ No. 3 by D. Keane

1. What sort of creature is a 'chickweed geometer'?
2. What is both a group of peacocks and to gather troops?
3. From which hawkbilled animal is tortoiseshell primarily obtained?
4. What type of creature is a pine marten?
5. Who did the illustrations for the book, titled 'What Butterfly Is That' published in 1932?
6. Which tree means 'well covered' in Greek?
7. Which Indian wrote about Manor Farm and Napoleon?
8. What sort of animal is a land mullet?
9. How many legs does an adult dragonfly have?
10. What colour is an azure butterfly?

1. Moth, 2. Mustel, 3. Turtle, 4. Weasel, 5. Neville Cayley, 6. Eucalyptus, 7. George Orwell, 8. Skink, 9. Six, 10. Blue

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE

If you have not paid in advance please forward your annual fee of \$10 to:

The Treasurer,
20 Thornton Street
KENSINGTON 5068

"A Selection of South Australian Butterflies"
photographed by Lindsay Hunt

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Downlands Copper | Rocheda Dusky Blue |
| Eastern Adelaide Frodo | Adelaide Hills |
| Meadow Apollo | Fairy Jewel |
| Adelaide Frodo | Eyes Foremost |
| Large Green Yellow | Wood White |
| George Lakes | Hammon Range |



Motor Neurone Disease Association of SA Inc.
PO Box 319, Unley, 5061
Phone 08 8237 0943
Email: admin@mdasa.com.au
Web: www.mdasa.com.au



**MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE
FUND RAISER**

The BCSA committee is pleased to support the Motor Neurone Disease Association by selling these cards as a fund raiser for the MND.

Many of you will know Lindsay Hunt who passed away in February 2007 of this disease.

Prior to his death Lindsay provided the MND with these images to use on their cards.



Thanks to the team of Alex, Jill, Penny, Lois, Sue, Jan, John, Terry, Joan, Keith, Bev and Dean who helped to look after the BCSA stall at the Home Expo held during April at Wayville and to Joan, Keith, Maria, David and Jan for their help at the Stirling Autumn Garden Festival (no image of that one).

All of the displays held during April and May have been very successful however it would not be possible to undertake this promotional work without the support of these special members.

If you are available to support Butterfly Conservation SA at the SAMuseum Roadshow Backyard Biodiversity Bringing back the Butterflies at Marion Shopping Centre on Thursday 4th, Friday 5th or Saturday 6th June please contact morris.sharon3@saugov.sa.gov.au or Underwood.Leisel@saugov.sa.gov.au or telephone either of them at the Museum.

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA INC.

NOMINATION FORM 2009

At the AGM all positions on the committee will become vacant. The following positions need to be filled: Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and not less than 3 committee members. Please consider accepting nomination to the committee and for present members to re-nominate.

We nominate:

for the position of

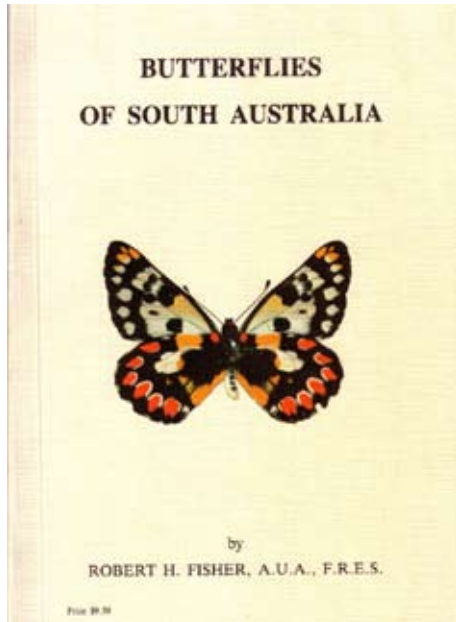
Proposed by: **Seconded by:**

Books for sale

Six copies available for \$25ea + \$7 post & packing

Published in 1978 this book, becoming scarce, is the bible for South Australian butterflies.

If you desire a copy send \$32 to David Keane C/- PO Inglewood SA 5133 or email dkeane@iweb.net.au



DISPLAY AT TEA TREE PLAZA



Thanks to the team of David, Mike, Sue, Jan who looked after the BCSA stand at the TTP SAMuseum roadshow. There was a lot of interest especially from families.

Future Museum roadshows will be held at Marion Westfield (see note page 7) and West Lakes Westfield from 17th - 19th September, 2009. Your help would be appreciated.

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA Inc.

Chairman: David Keane

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 : 20 Thornton Street, KENSINGTON, 5068.

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 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 Meeting: 8th June, 2009 at 6.00pm, 24 Hart Avenue, UNLEY.

AGM: 10th August, 2009, Urrbrae Wetlands Resource Centre, Cross Roads, Urrbrae 7.30pm. Guest Speaker to be advised. Please bring plate of supper.

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:

- Somerton Park Kindergarten
- Kieren O’NEILL
- Jeanette DOWLING
- Ann JENKINS
- Lyn WILSON & Tom SALMON
- Roz HAMILTON
- Doreen RAE
- Michelle and John BOHNER
- Michael FUHLBOHM
- Daniela BACHMAIER
- Shirley STANFIELD
- Anita WITT
- Andrew LINES
- Phil COLES
- D.N.MANGLESDORF
- Anita RENFREY
- Kaye HAMILTON
- Colin SMITH
- Jane LITTLETON
- Neil BROUGHAM
- Alison KING

