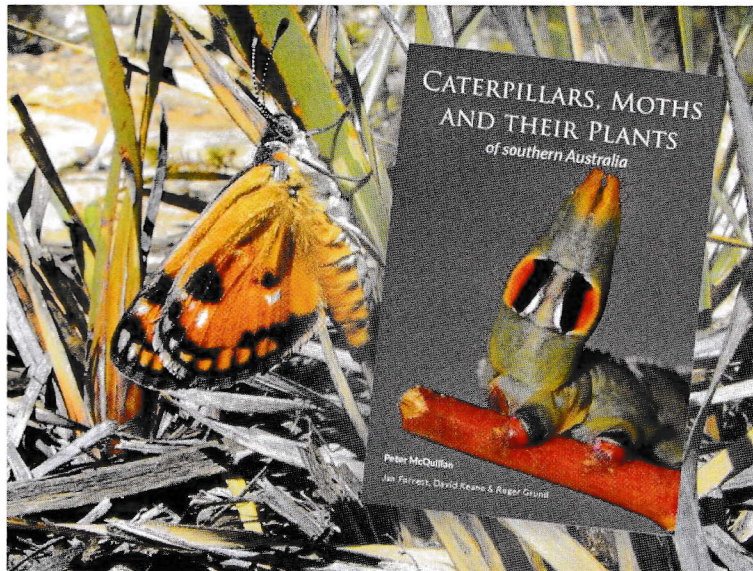


**Book
Review**



Caterpillars, Moths and their Plants of southern Australia
by Peter McQuillan with Jan Forrest, David Keane and Roger Grund
Butterfly Conservation SA Inc. 2019

The sheer numbers of Lepidoptera in southern Australia is daunting initially for those keen to identify them. Colour forms, sexual differences variability and seasonal appearances all create challenges.

To add into the mix, recognising the caterpillars that go with them doubles the complexity.

Peter McQuillan and a team of photographers in Butterfly Conservation of South Australia have taken this challenge and have produced a 200 page book that covers almost 50 subfamilies of moths and over 300 species. Each adult is photographed and the caterpillars cover every sub-family and many of the illustrated adults.

An excellent 13 page introductory section takes each family or subfamily and figures a caterpillar from the group and an adult. A clear description of the typical caterpillar and the adult with information on the major identification features is invaluable for pointing to the relevant pages.

Thereafter each page is devoted to a species with very clear images of the adult, caterpillar and often similar moths; headed by a common name with the scientific name beneath. In some cases eggs and habitat images are included. There are paragraphs covering Life history, Food-plant names, Similar species and often specific additional notes.

Maps for each species show distribution records across Australia, including Tasmania.

Presenting so much information is a major challenge for such publications balancing text and images and this is managed well. Occasionally small details in the images are difficult to see; print size is small and technical words occasionally can slow the reader down. But against the publication as a whole these are small matters.

The book is just \$30.00 available through the organisation's website:
<https://butterflyconservationsa.net.au>

Reviewed by Peter Marriott