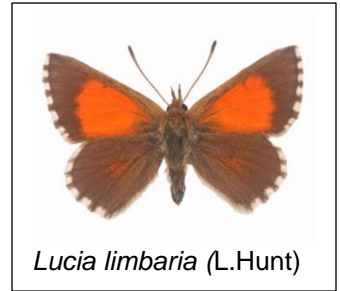




## Friends of the Chequered Copper (*Lucia limbaria*) Butterfly

c/- Butterfly Conservation of SA Inc  
ABN 88 179 165 805

Telephone 0407 972 149  
c/-SA Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000  
[info@butterflyconservationsa.net.au](mailto:info@butterflyconservationsa.net.au)



*Lucia limbaria* (L.Hunt)

Update 5: December 2019

The Friends of the Chequered Copper (*Lucia limbaria*) Butterfly have been very busy, during November and December 2019, visiting Victoria Park/Pakapakanthi Park 16 and other places investigating the presence of the Chequered Copper (*Lucia limbaria*) butterflies, the butterfly host plant *Oxalis perennans* and the obligate ant *Iridomyrmex rufoniger*.

Frequent visits to Pakapakanthi and the use of a monitoring program on our iPad Mini tablet or our smartphones using Collector for ArcGIS, as this can occur with multiple users, have enabled multiple sightings of our targets to be documented. The 3 main aspects we are collecting data on are:

- Host plant *Oxalis perennans* – presence/absence due to ‘browsing’ by the butterfly larvae;
- Obligate ant *Iridomyrmex rufoniger* – presence/absence and proximity of the ant nest;
- Flight of adult Chequered Copper (*Lucia limbaria*) butterflies.

In September 2019 Greg Coote captured an image of a large caterpillar, which may have been dormant over Winter. Over the ensuing months we have endured some significant heatwave events and the *Oxalis perennans* is surviving but is desiccated and some growth is sustaining caterpillars, browsing the host plants. Several great images of male and female butterflies, caterpillars and the obligate ant *Iridomyrmex rufoniger* have been taken by volunteer photographer Greg Coote. (Greg has a Flickr site: [flickr.com/photos/glcoote](https://www.flickr.com/photos/glcoote) where you can view more images and video.)

The City of Adelaide, has provided us with a further grant, for which we are very grateful, to undertake the monitoring work especially the GIS database management. The opportunity was taken to present a synopsis of our work using the ArcGIS Story Map and a written report.

A presentation was made to the City of Playford 18<sup>th</sup> December to lift understanding of Council staff and volunteers in the region, showcasing the activities of the Friends group and the amazing behaviour of the caterpillars and the obligate ant.

The group continues to seek information about sightings of Chequered Copper butterflies in other regions of South Australia. Any persons who would like to volunteer for these activities are most welcome and the only requirement is that you are a financial member of BCSA.

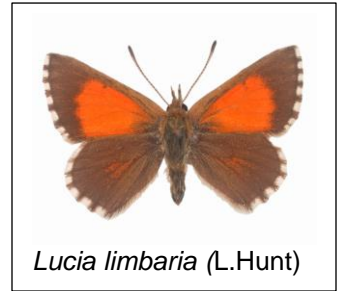
Gerry Butler  
Convenor, Friends of the Chequered Copper (*Lucia limbaria*) Butterfly



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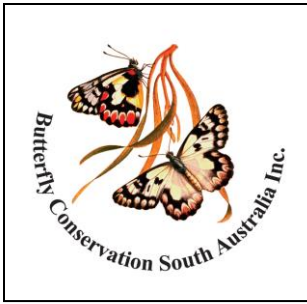
Selected images (Photographer Greg Coote (GC)):



Above: *Iridomyrmex rufoniger* herding and sipping honeydew on mature caterpillar showing browsed *Oxalis perennans* 19 September 2019 (GC); *Oxalis perennans* 19 September 2019 (GC);



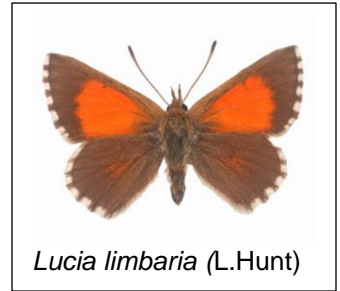
Above: tatty female 17 December 2019 (GC) and early instar CCB caterpillar (2mm length) on *Oxalis perennans* 17 December 2019 (GC)



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*Lucia limbaria* (L.Hunt)



Above: Flowering *Oxalis perennans* 18 December 2018 (GC); Fresh CCB unhatched eggs near log with ant, on *Oxalis perennans* 22 December 2019 (GC)



CCB cat showing dessicated state of *Oxalis perennans* 26 December 2019 (GC)



Above: fresh male CCB 18 December 2018 (GC) and tatty female 29 December 2018 (GC)