



BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA INC.

Founded 25th July, 1998 Adelaide, South Australia.

NEWSLETTER

No. 79: May 2022

"PLANT IT AND THEY WILL COME"

Greg Coote

Looked out the window a couple of weeks ago and saw a butterfly with the wingspan of an eagle. It was a proper Chequered Swallowtail *Papilio demoleus* performing circuits in my garden and possibly laying eggs on the Tall Scurf-pea, its larvae food plant. I had it in view for about 30 minutes.

It never actually settled or stopped flapping its wings – just swung its abdomen forward and moved on. I was incredibly lucky to get this shot because most I took were just a blur. The next day I used this photo and some other shots to identify where the butterfly had been. Got it down to the individual leaf and, lo and behold, found lovely Swallowtail eggs all laid individually on the underside of leaves.

I have had Scurf-pea in my garden since last year and the plants have been spreading happily and this is the first time I've seen a Chequered Swallowtail visiting. Plant it and they'll come!

I reckon it would be great if members sent in photos of plants that they have had success with (and who visited) and a bit of a backstory. It might encourage others to plant with purpose.

EDITOR NOTE: Thanks to Greg for those great shots of the egg and adult. That is a great story and I too challenge members to send in their stories and images for our new series of "Plant it and they will come!"



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LAUNCH OF 'MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES AUSTRALASIA



See page 7.



Photo Greg Coote: Chequered Swallowtail *Papilio demoleus* egg and adult. Photo LF Hunt: First and fourth instar larvae. Photo RH Fisher: Last instar larva and pupa.

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BUTTERFLIES IN THE LEIGH CREEK LIBRARY

Hi everyone,

On the suggestion of some others in the network, I am sharing with you a bit of an outline of our recent hit program – breeding butterflies in the library. It has been hugely popular and quite easy to manage, and might spark your imagination.

Our journey started with our local enthusiast, Ron, who started growing Milkweed plants from seed in pots last year. Monarch (Wanderer) *Danaus plexippus* caterpillars from Cleland sanctuary were introduced to the Milkweed. The first generation of mighty Monarchs emerged, then went on to breed and free range around our Copley gardens in small numbers. We were smitten. Then something fabulous happened – the local Australian Lesser Wanderer, *Danaus petilia* a smaller cousin of the Monarch, also started to breed and lay on the Milkweed plants in great numbers.

Butterfly fever quickly spread among library staff, the STEAM teacher and the kids. Without further delay, we set up a living display of Milkweeds and Australian Lesser Wanderers in the library. This was a very simple operation: a few plastic tubs of plants.

It was simple to install and maintain but over the course of a month it proved to be a fascinating dynamic micro-world that captivated our library visitors, young and old. Not only were caterpillars devouring plants day and night, but Milkweed aphid colonies, Ladybug life cycles and surprise guest predators added complexity with each passing day. We supplied magnifying glasses, microscope and accompanying display of books, and everyone was hooked. Kids also started turning up with extras – all sorts of insect eggs and cocoons and an array of impressive huge hawk-moth caterpillars which became a second display.

As required, Ron would switch out denuded Milkweed plants for fresh specimens. Before long, library staff were running around the library keeping up with caterpillars on the march to pupate in often delightful places around the library, such as on the ends of bookshelves.

Within eight days of installation of the plants, butterflies were emerging daily. The life cycle of pupating insects is truly one of the most mind-blowing phenomena on earth, and we share a universal fascination with the sheer magic of it. Some lucky library visitors were able to witness butterflies emerging from the chrysalis. The display became the focus of the STEAM classes R-9 during the period of the project.

So you are probably imagining having butterflies flying around the library... but there was a catch. The air conditioning made the library too cold for the butterflies to fly beyond their maiden flight. This meant that the butterflies were not feeding on the flowering plants we provided in the display. Therefore, each day after the kids rushed in at lunchtime to catch up on the state of the mini-beast microcosmos, the butterflies were released into the warm air outside and have been wafting around the school.

The middle school class participated in coming up with a solution for extending the project, involving an outdoor area and Milkweed cultivation in the school nursery. It has been a fast moving project over the course of February, but before the end of the month we managed to convert an old

aviary adjacent to the library into a butterfly house. One of our library staff members made the trip down south to Bunnings for a car load of flowering plants and irrigation parts, and we quickly set up a nectar paradise. We also installed several citrus trees which are host to Orchard Swallowtail caterpillars who have arrived by post and commenced munching.

And that's how we transitioned out of the library into an outdoor location, which will grow into a more diverse living community of butterfly species and host plants, including the Common Egg-fly, Chequered Swallowtail and other endemic species.

In a nutshell:

Local gardeners like growing plants

Caterpillars need specific host plants

Caterpillars can travel by post from suppliers

Butterflies need warmth and nectar from flowering plants

This all ticks STEAM boxes

Kids can't resist any of it.

Anne-Maree Taranto

Library Manager / CLA

Leigh Creek School Community Library

EDITOR NOTE: The Lesser Wanderer *Danaus petilia* is a native species and the caterpillar feeds on native milkweed plants generally found north of Port Augusta. So when we see the Lesser Wanderer in Adelaide these will be feeding on the introduced milkweed and swan plants. The introduced Wanderer or Monarch butterfly *Danaus plexippus* will only feed on the introduced milkweed plants and as these plants are not generally found north of Port Augusta you will rarely see the Wanderer butterfly in the north.



WAITE CONSERVATION RESERVE

The **Waite Conservation Reserve**, in the Adelaide Hills face area, belongs to the University of Adelaide. It was dedicated for conservation and the furtherance of scientific knowledge in 1992. Today the Waite Conservation Reserve is noted as one of the largest and best surviving examples of Grey Box Grassy Woodland in South Australia – a nationally threatened plant community.

Home to more than 200 species of native plants as well as kangaroos, koalas and echidnas, it is a valuable asset of the University of Adelaide and the people of South Australia. The Reserve comprises 121 hectares, of which 110 hectares are under Heritage Agreement, protecting the native vegetation and wildlife in perpetuity.

The Reserve is of great environmental value because it:

- Protects precious remnant vegetation
- Is one of the best surviving examples in the Adelaide Hills of Grey Box Grassy Woodland, a depleted and poorly conserved vegetation type
- Is home to 6 plant species listed as Rare or Vulnerable in South Australia

- Is a habitat for native animals, for example echidnas, koalas, kangaroos, as well as butterflies, reptiles and birds
- Is a valuable resource for ongoing research in ecology, biological control, and related fields
- Is a valuable and accessible resource for teaching environmental management to secondary and tertiary students
- Provides a beautiful and tranquil environment for bushwalking, birdwatching and other quiet recreation
- Has easy access to bushland for people living in urban Adelaide.

For further details and information, please contact:

The Manager of the Waite Conservation Reserve

Dr Kate Delaporte,
kate.delaporte@adelaide.edu.au



Photo P Bird: Chequered Copper
Lucia limbaria
Waite Conservation Reserve.

BUTTERFLIES OF WAITE CONSERVATION RESERVE

PAPILIONIDAE (2)
(Swallowtails)

Dainty Swallowtail
Chequered Swallowtail

Papilio anactus
Papilio demoleus sthenelus

PIERIDAE (4)
(Whites & Yellows)

Caper White
Wood White
Small Grass Yellow
Cabbage White

Belenois java teutonia
Delias aganippe
Eurema smilax
**Pieris rapae*

LYCANENIDAE (7)
(Coppers & Blues)

Rayed Blue
Long-tailed Pea-blue
Chequered Copper
Broad-margined Azure
Wattle Blue
Saltbush Blue
Common Grass-blue

Candalides heathi heathi
Lampides boeticus
Lucia limbaria
Ogyris olane
Theclinessthes miskini miskini
Theclinessthes serpentata serpentata
Zizina labradus labradus

NYMPHALIDAE (9)
(Brushfoots or Nymphs)

Wanderer
Lesser Wanderer
Common Crow
Marbled Xenica
Common Brown
Meadow Argus
Tailed Emperor
Australian Admiral
Australian Painted Lady

Danaus plexippus plexippus
Danaus petilia
Euploea corinna
Geitoneura klugii
Heteronympha merope merope
Junonia villida calybe
Polyura sempronius
Vanessa itea
Vanessa kershawi

HESPERIIDAE (2)
(Skippers)

Southern Grass-dart
Phigalia Skipper

Ocybadistes walkeri hypochlorus
Trapezites phigalia

Total: 24 species

(Peter Bird Last updated 15 April 2022)

MEMBERS FORUM

We have had a few letters from members and we thought that publishing these in our Newsletter could provoke some interesting thoughts and comments. We have kept names withdrawn to retain privacy. We look forward to receiving your comments and letters for future issues of the newsletter. Please send to editor@butterflyconservationsa.net.au.

I would like to complain about the importing of pupae of non-native butterflies into SA. I have just become aware that people are importing pupae from other states into SA. To me this is a dangerous behaviour because if the adults escape they could upset the local ecology, introduce disease or compete with the locals for food or mates.

You might think the introduced species would have no local competitors here and therefore how can they harm anything? Well, how about something like, more butterflies therefore more birds (or other butterfly predators) and the increased number of predators put more pressure on the local species of butterflies and we end up with smaller populations of the locals? Or, the males of the local species spend more time trying to mate with the introduced females and therefore have less time and/or energy to find and mate with the local females of their own species.

And of course, there is always the possibility that a disease might be introduced that affects the local butterfly species or, more likely, that foreign parasites are introduced which the local residents have not previously seen, with potentially catastrophic effects. All dramatic outcomes but is it worth the risk?

Yours sincerely
Concerned Conserver.

I have just returned from a trip to Northern Queensland where I visited the Kuranda butterfly house. A great experience. I was particularly impressed with the good views we got of the Red Lacewing butterflies *Cethosia cydippe*. They raise them in the facility to fly free in the large enclosed space. I was talking to one of the people who raise them and I asked if they just let them go into the environment when they get a little older and bashed.

Interestingly she said no, they do not, because even though it is a local species if they let go large numbers it would upset the local ecological balance potentially harming the species locally. I hadn't thought of that and found it an interesting and worthwhile point of view.

Anyway, a great trip, and I just wanted to share some of it with you.

Yours
Red on the Road.



Photo RH Fisher: Red Lacewing butterflies *Cethosia cydippe*.

I was thrilled to see a beautiful Tailed Emperor in our suburb the other day. Aren't we lucky that this species found its way down the Murray in the early 1970s to get to Adelaide where it has continued to survive. I have looked in your wonderful book and am blown away by the fantastic looking larva and can't wait to find and raise some so I can release them close to our home.

Yours excitedly
Vanessa Kershaw

Photos LF Hunt: Tailed Emperor *Polyura sempronius*.



I was excited to learn that it is much easier to obtain Orchard Swallowtail *Papilio aegeus* pupae and raise them in SA now. They are a magnificent butterfly, the males with their beautifully contrasting black and yellow and the white and grey females with their red and blue eyespots.

Did you know this butterfly lived in Adelaide previously? The first Orchards were seen in SA in 1925 but there were no further recorded sightings until the early 1970s when a series of wetter summers allowed or encouraged Orchard Swallowtails and Tailed Emperors to move down through the Riverland where food for both species is present, to Adelaide. The early 70s invasion could only be determined as natural though human aided. I was talking to a member named Anne and she said she had recently seen a lot of them in the Gammon Ranges where she was walking, so they might be moving here anyway!

The fact that the species could not survive in Adelaide in the past was probably due to climactic conditions. Robert Fisher, an earlier Lepidopterist, thought the summers might be too dry for it, whereas other migratory species seem to find the colder wetter weather of winter a problem, but of course we all know the weather is changing and that has been so evident in the last three or four years. So, wouldn't it be good if this species becomes established in Adelaide.

This butterfly's larvae feeds on citrus so they wouldn't compete with other butterflies except with the Dainty Swallowtail *Papilio anactus* which was accidentally introduced to Adelaide in the 1930s and couldn't be considered a native SA butterfly anyway.



I think it would be great to see this butterfly in Adelaide and it would make a beautiful addition to our fauna. Perhaps we should actively introduce it?

Yours sincerely
Big Butterflies are beautiful.



Photos RH Fisher: Orchard Swallowtail *Papilio aegeus* female (top) and male (below).

OBSERVATIONS OF THE PAINTED LADY BUTTERFLY

I would like to tell you about some observations I have been fortunate to make of the Australian Painted Lady, *Vanessa kershawi*. Others may have previously reported such sightings but nevertheless they are new and exiting to me.

I live at Mt Barker and every Thursday I enjoy having the company of my grand-dog. We do quite a bit of walking and resting in my front room that faces south into my front garden. Predominately the garden is crowded with palms of the *Trachycarpus* genus, but I do have a few flowering plants. One such plant just outside the window is pictured below the common everlasting *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*. When in flower, as it is now, it's a great attraction to bees and, sometimes, butterflies. The photo attached has the butterfly on a flower head.

A Painted Lady has been going from flower head to flower head for well over five hours, with no sign of going away. Nearly every time it lands on a new flower head it gently exercises its wings two to four times as it starts to feed. There are many bees also foraging for the life giving elixir on the same plant. If a bee comes close to the Lady it gives a noticeably faster one or two short movements of its wings and the bee changes direction.

It's not a surprise that I also see a Cabbage White *Pieris rapae* fluttering by and rarely do I see one land but today I did. This one appears about half the size of the ones I usually see and is clearly smaller than the Painted Lady. It flew quite quickly from head to head only occasionally spending longer. It also only stayed around for about five to ten minutes before moving on.

At the back of my home is a four by seven metre garden that is still in transition from what it was five years ago, a lawn. This garden can be a hive of activity on a good day with 6 or 7 species of birds and many insects including the occasional butterfly.

Beyond that is a park that I am grateful to have access to via a back gate. This park could loosely be referred to as a formal garden although what appears behind my actual fence line is predominantly an environmental weed, kikuyu. Over the past few years I have managed to kill about 150 square metres and dug up, landscaped and planted about 120 square metres. The plants are predominantly Australian native and of those many are local. There are about four species of grass and about the same, in depressions, sedges that will hopefully attract birds and butterflies. Other plants include the small flowering plants you might find on the forest floor including *Pelargonium australe* (dead easy to grow and transplant and flowers while you look) and Bulbines. The plants that are really taking off are *Acacia*, *Banksia*, *Grevillea*, *Correa*, *Eucalyptus* and *Callistemon* spp.

I also volunteer for the CFS with the Mt Lofty Fire Tower Brigade. This gives one a unique view of this part of the Planet we live on. Sometimes the visible horizon can be

some sixty kilometres away. The tower we work from is 37 metres above Mt Lofty on top of which it sits. That is 764 metres above sea level. It might surprise that I often see butterflies around the cabin and they include the Cabbage White and the Painted Lady.

Being a member of Butterfly Conservation has given me a greater understanding and interest in these wonderful creatures and encouraged me to provide an island environment to help them survive.

Andy Saunders



Photos LF Hunt: Egg. R Grund: Final instar larvae, pupa and adult. E Steele-Collins: Adult feeding on *Xerochrysum bracteatum* (Golden everlasting). A Saunders: Adult, possibly laying eggs on the caterpillar foodplant common everlasting *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, or feeding on nectar.

BUTTERFLIES ON THE BRINK...

Bryan Haywood

The diversity and abundance of native invertebrates is declining globally, which could have significant consequences for ecosystem functioning. The Lepidoptera (moths and butterflies) are well studied in Australia compared with other invertebrates, so we know that some species are in peril or declining.

Despite this, few butterfly taxa are listed for protection by legislation at either a state or national level. In November 2019, a large group of experts from all states and territories came together to identify the butterfly taxa that would most benefit from listing by determining the Australian butterflies at most immediate risk of extinction.

The results of the symposium were published in *Austral Entomology* – see reference below. The findings were also summarised in a *Wildlife Australia Magazine* article “*Australian fritillary tops butterflies at risk of extinction*” by Jaana Dielenburg.

Some of the species assessed have not been seen in the wild for some time. The butterflies are in decline due to:

- natural system modifications (e.g. inappropriate fire regimes or surface water extraction),
- habitat loss and fragmentation for agriculture,
- invasion by exotic species, and
- climate change.

This list comprised 26 species, representing all states and territories (except ACT). Of the 26, six are from the south-east of SA and western Victoria:

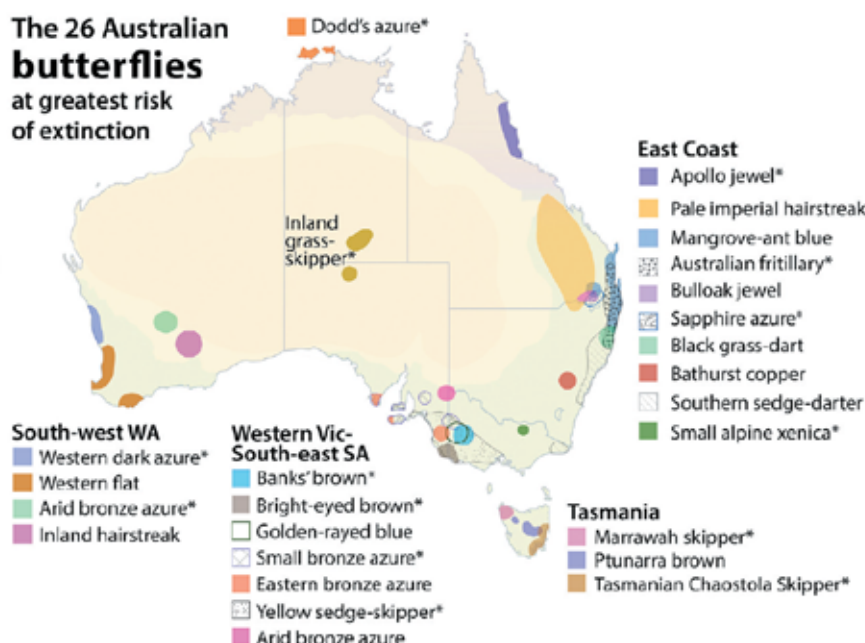
- Banks’ brown *Heteronympha banksii*
- Bright-eyed brown *Heteronympha cordace*
- Golden-rayed blue *Candalides noelkeri*
- Small bronze azure *Ogyris otares*
- Eastern bronze azure *Ogyris halmaturia*
- Yellow sedge-skipper *Hesperilla flavescens*

Journal article reference: Geyle, H. M., Braby, M. F., An-

dren, M., Beaver, E. P., Bell, P., Byrne, C., Castles, M., Douglas, F., Glatz, R. V., Haywood, B., Hendry, P., Kitching, R. L., Lambkin, T. A., Meyer, C. E., Moore, M. D., Moss, J. T. Nally, S., New, T. R., Palmer, C. M., Petrie, E., Potter-Craven, J., Richards, K., Sanderson, C., Stolarski, A., Taylor, G. S., Williams, M. R., Woinarski, J. C. Z., and Garnett, S. T. (2021). Butterflies on the brink: identifying the Australian butterflies (Lepidoptera) most at risk of extinction. *Austral Entomology*, 60, 98–110. <https://doi.org/10.1111/aen.12525>.

EDITOR NOTE: Over the next few months Bryan will provide information on each of these species starting with the Yellow Sedge-skipper (*Hesperilla flavescens*) which occurs in both SA and Victoria.

The 26 Australian butterflies at greatest risk of extinction



CINEMATOGRAPHER WANTED

Sounds fancy, however what we need is someone to take control of our movie camera at meetings of the Public Talks program at the Plympton Community Centre.

Although we record the talks via Zoom, any videos provided by speakers do not come out well as they become very pixilated. By filming the presentations we can provide a high quality recording of the talk.

We already have the equipment, all you need do is make sure all is working and possibly ‘follow’ the speaker if they move around during their presentation.

If you can help please contact Gerry Butler at chairman@butterflyconservationsa.net.au.

Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

ZOOM MASTER WANTED

Are you an experienced Zoom master or would you like to have a go?

Since Covid we have been offering our Public Talks via Zoom as well as in-person attendance at the Plympton Community Centre. This means that country members and those with compromised immune systems are able to take part in the Public Talks program.

However, juggling chairing of the meeting with managing the Zoom functions has not been an easy task for our Chairman Gerry Butler and he would like some help.

If you are willing to give this a go please contact Gerry at chairman@butterflyconservationsa.net.au. He will guide you through the process and will be there on hand to help you.

YELLOW SEDGE-SKIPPER

Bryan Haywood

The Yellow Sedge-skipper *Hesperilla flavescens* inhabits gahnia sedgelands from western Victoria to south east of SA and as far west as Eyre Peninsula in SA. Farming and drainage practices have significantly reduced the extent and quality of habitat available to this species, making the future of this butterfly... potentially bleak.

The adults look similar to other sedge-skippers, being mostly brown and yellow on the upper wing, and grey with black encircled silver spots on the underwing. Overall, this skipper is more yellow than the others, especially on the abdomen – hence their name, the Yellow Sedge-skipper.



Photos Bryan Haywood: Female Yellow Sedge-skipper Southend SA 2009 and side view of a Yellow Sedge-skipper.

Skippers create unique larval shelters on cutting grass / saw sedge (*Gahnia* spp.) host plants; *Gahnia trifida* and *G. filum* are the specific food plants for the Yellow Sedge-skipper. The caterpillar binds several leaves together forming a shelter protecting it from the elements and predators during its growth. See the characteristic bend in the leaf in the photo below.



Photos Bryan Haywood: Skipper egg laid on the underside of the gahnia leaf;

A typical skipper caterpillar shelter on a gahnia tussock;

A caterpillar inside its shelter, head facing towards the end of the leaf where it comes out to eat.

South Australian entomologist Alex Stolarski has frequently observed sedge-skippers in freshly burnt gahnia sites, where the fire didn't burn the entire patch, allowing for re-colonisation from unburnt habitat close by. His observations also lead him to believe that fresh tussock regrowth can hasten the development from egg to adult stage to just six months – compared to 12 months in older long-unburnt tussocks.

So, it seems that no burning or the wrong type of burning could work against a species like this; fire helps freshen up the food plants from time to time. Keep an eye out for Yellow Sedge-skippers and we urge landholders (including private and public land managers) when considering burning areas of *Gahnia* sp. to find out whether you have a colony of Yellow Sedge-skipper on your property first – before burning.

MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES AUSTRALASIA

Dear friend and colleague

The purpose of this email is to let you know about Moths and Butterflies Australasia Inc. (MABA), an exciting, new society devoted to the scientific study, research and conservation of moths and butterflies (Lepidoptera) in the Australian Region – Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea and the adjacent Pacific islands.

The society was founded last year and we hope to increase community engagement between various people interested in, and working on, Lepidoptera in this mega biodiverse region, including professional entomologists, amateur naturalists, photographers, conservationists and citizen scientists, as well as facilitating networks between various research institutions and non-government organizations.

Briefly, the aims and objectives of MABA are:

- To bring together in a scientific forum people of all ages and backgrounds interested in moths and butterflies;
- To exchange scientific knowledge, specimens and observations of moths and butterflies in a social and congenial atmosphere;
- To compile and disseminate information on the identity, taxonomy and distribution of all species of moths and butterflies, both native and introduced, for the purposes of advancing education, training, biosecurity and evaluation of pest status;
- To promote and support the conservation of moths and butterflies and their habitats, and provide information to government agencies and non-government organisations on land use, threatened species and biodiversity for the purpose of advancing the health of the natural environment;
- To lobby for improved funding and training for research on moths and butterflies.

For further information about MABA, please visit our website: <https://maba.org.au> which includes a copy of the Constitution and the first newsletter.

If you are interested in joining MABA please complete the membership application form available on the website and send it back via email.

Best wishes and warm regards

Michael Braby
Secretary, Moths and Butterflies Australasia Inc.
Email: secretary@maba.org.au

EDITOR NOTE: Congratulations to Michael and his team for getting this new group off the ground. We look forward to many years of collaboration.

Received 23 April, 2022

Dear stakeholder

RE: Parks of the Central Fleurieu Peninsula Management Plan

A new management plan for six parks across the central Fleurieu Peninsula is being developed by the Department for Environment and Water following the proclamation of Hindmarsh Valley National Park.

As a valued stakeholder, the Department's planning team is seeking your input during May to assist in the development of the plan.

The parks to be covered by the plan include: Gum Tree Gully Conservation Park, Hindmarsh Valley National Park, Mount Billy Conservation Park, Myponga Conservation Park, Spring Mount Conservation Park, and Yulte Conservation Park. Incorporating these parks into a single management plan will facilitate a coordinated approach to their management and account for the ecological, cultural, and recreation values of the parks.

The draft plan is expected to be released for public consultation towards the middle of 2022. Once adopted, the plan will establish a long-term vision for the parks, focus on the key values and critical threats, and provide strategies to manage them.

To provide input or to arrange a meeting to discuss further, please contact Planning and Policy Officer Andrew Raymond at DEWProtectedAreaManagement@sa.gov.au or 0429 670 074.

I also encourage you to subscribe to receive the latest news on the establishment of Hindmarsh Valley National Park via the project website <https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/park-management/new-in-sa-national-parks/hindmarsh-valley>

Kind regards

Kym Rumbelow

Team Leader, Park Management Program

National Parks and Crown Lands Program |
National Parks and Wildlife Service South Australia
Department for Environment and Water
M 0411 779 623
Level 9, 81-95 Waymouth Street, Adelaide
GPO Box 1047, Adelaide, South Australia 5001

environment.sa.gov.au | parks.sa.gov.au



Helping South Australians conserve, sustain and prosper

Editor Note: If you have an interest in these parks please either respond direct to Team Leader Kym Rumbelow or forward your comments to BCSA Secretary, Sukhpreet Singh Bala secretary@butterflyconservationsa.net.au.

UPDATE ON ROGER GRUND SLIDES

Working bee is being planned – can you help?

As reported in the last newsletter, we have acquired around 350 boxes of transparencies taken by Roger Grund of butterfly life histories.

Thanks go to members Jan Forrest, Gil Hollamby, Emily Winter and Peter Hoskin for their assistance in sorting these slides into their species and in particular labelling and then sorting the contents of 100 boxes.

We now need assistance to select a series of life history images from each species for digitization and plan to hold a working bee to do this. The location and date to be advised.

If you are willing to spend a couple of hours helping out that would be wonderful.

Please respond to Jan Forrest at janf@butterflyconservationsa.net.au if you can assist at a working bee and when you could be available during the week, on the weekend, and which day you would prefer.

Also if anyone has a light pad or light table we could borrow please advise Jan with your contact details to arrange collection and return.

MOTHS OF BELAIR NATIONAL PARK

Marianne Broug

I visit our beautiful Belair NP almost daily. I live nearby and it is always a wonderful start to the day to go for a walk and take photos of things that interest me.

One day I visited a toilet block prior to going for a walk and quite by chance spotted a green moth on the wall. I was amazed. I had seen photos of such moths but had never imagined seeing one in real life so close to home. Its camouflage in the bush would have rendered it invisible. Even on the wall it looked just like a gum leaf.

And so started a rather delightful obsession: first thing in the morning, before going for a walk, I would spend a few minutes looking for moths on buildings in the park. Even an hour or two later they had usually flown away.

This collage of moths is the photographic record of that obsession! All photos were taken from Oct to Dec, 2021. I only included moths that I could definitively identify. I could probably create another collage of similar size of moths I was unable to identify or moths in the bush itself.

I find the diversity and beauty of these moths simply breathtaking! And I also went on to find three more species of green moth

The national park is such a valuable oasis for these exquisite creatures to carry on their lives undisturbed without the risk of their caterpillars being seen as 'garden pests'.

NOTE: See Marianne's selection of Belair NP moths featured next page.



PUBLIC TALKS PROGRAM 2022

Butterfly Conservation
South Australia Inc.

presents the twelfth

PUBLIC TALKS
PROGRAM for 2022On the first Tuesday of the month March to
November at 6.15pm for a prompt 6.30pm start.

At the Plympton Community Centre

34 Long Street, Plympton.

(200 metres E of Marion Rd, and 300 metres N of Anzac Highway).

Public transport options include:

Bus from the city via Anzac Highway.

Routes: 245, 248, 262, 263, 265, M44, N262.

Closest stop is Stop 9, then approximately 350 metre walk
along Long Street.

Bus from the city via Marion Road.

Routes 100, 101, H20. Closest stop is Stop 10 (east side is
approximately 100 metres south of Long street). Stop 10
(west side is on the other side of Moringie Ave.

approx. 100 metres north of Long Street). Then approx.

250 metre walk along Long Street.

Entry by donation (minimum of \$2).

Bookings not required

Please bring supper to share (unless otherwise advised).

Bring your own cup, tea/coffee will be supplied.

Meetings should conclude by 8.30pm.

At the start of each meeting a ten minute
presentation on a 'Butterfly of the Month'
will be given by a BCSA committee member.

DON'T FORGET TO BYO CUP.

Photo Marianne Broug: Dainty Swallowtail butterfly *Papilio anactus*

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA INC.

C/- PO Box 4, DAW PARK. 5041.

For further information contact: Jan Forrest 8297 8230

Annual membership: \$10 per year. Plus \$10 if you choose to
receive the newsletter via mail. Life Membership \$200.Website: www.butterflyconservationsa.net.auResources for sale: at public talk meetings or on-line at
www.butterflyconservationsa.net.au/shop.Books 'Attracting butterflies to your garden, what to grow
and conserve in the Adelaide region' (2nd edition).

'Caterpillars moths and their plants of southern Australia'.

Large spider posters, A3 size moth posters and plant tags.

7th June: Insect Investigators: A citizen science project.

Dr Erinn Fagan-Jeffries will provide an overview of the 'Insect
Investigators program' working with 50 regional schools in SA, Qld
and WA. The program aims to connect schools to insect biodiversity
documentation and the process of taxonomy.

5th July The evolving Port River & Barker Inlet Estuary

The Port River and Barker Inlet Estuary remain vital to Kaurna
people, industry and community. Catherine McMahon, Estuary Care
Foundation, will discuss the challenges facing, plus possibilities and
well-being of, the estuary.

2nd August. Observing butterflies in the field and raising them

at home. Committee member Mike Moore will provide an introduction
about capturing, observing and raising butterflies. He will include
discussion of the equipment required, along with tips and techniques
for field collection and for raising species "at home."

6th Sept. 6.30pm BCSA AGM 7.00pm Public Talk Cat Tracker:

where do cats roam? The Cat Tracker project explored the movement
of pet cats, with over 400 cats tracked in South Australia. Discover how
far cats roamed and the impact of the project on cat owners. Presented
by Dr. Philip Roetman.

4th Oct. The Bandicoot Superhighway project.

Sturt Upper Reaches
Landcare Group President Danny Rohrlach will talk about this innovative
and ambitious project, bringing together community, philanthropy
and government in a unique partnership to protect our endangered
bandicoots through improving and linking natural habitat; revegetation;
educational workshops; translocating bandicoots and citizen science.

1st Nov. What caterpillar is that? Dr Peter McQuillan will provide an

overview of the characteristics and biology of caterpillars and similar
looking larvae, as well as a sneak preview of a proposed phone app.
to assist in their identification. This talk will be a ticketed event with
catering provided. Further details to be advised.In the case of an advertised speaker not being available,
a speaker of similar interest will replace that advertised.

The views of presenters are their personal views.

7th June: Insect Investigators: A
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overview of the 'Insect Investigators
program' working with 50 regional
schools in SA, Qld and WA. The
program aims to connect schools to
insect biodiversity documentation and
the process of taxonomy.I'm currently an Australian
Biological Resources Study funded Postdoctoral Fellow
at The University of Adelaide, and an Honorary Research
Associate at The South Australian Museum.I study the taxonomy and systematics of parasitoid
wasps. This means I describe new species, giving them
names and a formal description so that they can be
identified by scientists and the public, and also look at
how those species are related to each other through
time. I completed my PhD in 2019 at The University of
Adelaide on a group of wasps called the Microgastrinae,
and continue to work on describing and documenting their
biodiversity. These wasps are parasitoids of butterfly and
moth caterpillars, and are important in the environment
for controlling caterpillar populations.I am passionate about outreach, and hold a Masters in
Science Communication Outreach from the Australian
National University, where I spent a year travelling around
to schools and helping to run public science exhibitions
with the Questacon Science Circus.

PUBLIC TALKS PROGRAM ON ZOOM

Providing access to our Public talks program is now
permanently available for BCSA members on zoom
providing the guest speaker is comfortable with this.Members for whom we have email addresses receive via
email, the log on information several days prior to the talk
from our Membership Officer Gil Hollamby.If you do not receive this information please provide your
email details to Gil at membership@butterflyconservationsa.net.au to receive this and other BCSA notices.

I have worked as a science communicator for a not-for-profit science outreach organisation, developing and presenting workshops and interactive science shows to school children and the public.

I give numerous talks and interactive lectures on insects, wasps and biodiversity every year to community groups or schools, and love sharing the wonderful world of insects with people.

I do work in the lab, but my favourite part of entomology is being in the field.

5th July 5th July: The evolving Port River & Barker Inlet Estuary.

The Port River and Barker Inlet Estuary remain vital to Kaurna people, industry and community. Catherine McMahon, Estuary Care Foundation, will discuss the challenges facing, plus possibilities and well-being of, the estuary.



Catherine McMahon is the Secretary, Founder and Hon. Executive Officer of the Estuary Care Foundation SA which was established in 2016 to promote the protection of the ecology and shorelines of South Australia's Port River and Barker Inlet.

The Foundation has a culture of engaging with communities (including environment, government, business and education), and a strong foundation in citizen science. It promotes nature-based solutions through community action.

The key objectives of the Foundation are to:

- Conserve, protect, enhance and promote the ecology of the Port River and Barker Inlet Estuary, and the benefits thus provided
- Support, undertake, facilitate and monitor eco-engineering solutions to safeguard shorelines, community assets and the habitat of estuarine species, from rising sea levels
- Facilitate research, education and training relevant to the conservation, protection and restoration of, and carbon sequestration in, the Port River and Barker Inlet Estuary
- Pursue the objects of the Foundation in collaboration with local residents, community organisations, industries, corporations, and governments.

2nd August. Observing butterflies in the field and raising them at home.

Committee member Mike Moore will provide an introduction about capturing, observing and raising butterflies. He will include discussion of the equipment required, along with tips and techniques for field collection and for raising species "at home."



Though I have always been interested in the natural world I started a deep seated involvement in Lepidoptera in the mid 1970s and this has taken me over much of the State and a lot of Australia, and involving a few collection firsts.

This continued in a somewhat on and off manner until returning to Adelaide from the Riverland in 1995.

Two things happened then that focused my activities, firstly I was asked by Robert Fisher to help Lindsay Hunt expand his developing Lepidopteral skills and secondly the BCSA was founded.

Having someone to collect with, restimulated my interest and we made some interesting discoveries until Lindsay's untimely death in 2007. The formation of the BCSA helped focus my interests in public education about conservation.

I am a founder member of the BCSA and have been on the committee for most of that time, being the Treasurer for 6 years and Chairperson for 5 years.

Upon retirement in 2008 I was asked by Jan Forest to become a volunteer in the SA Museum. It was during that time that I became intensely involved in Rain moth taxonomy, evolution and ecology and now spend much of my time researching and publishing on Rain moths.

I am delighted to have been appointed an Honorary Researcher at the SA Museum, a post I currently hold.

MEMBER SURVEY AND SKILLS ASSESSMENT

The BCSA Committee is proposing to develop a survey for BCSA Membership to assist with future direction and, potentially, the recruitment of volunteers to Committee roles.

Questions will include:

- How did you find out about BCSA?
- Are you aware of BCSA Resources (Zoom, books, talks etc)?
- Do you have experience or talents that might assist the goals of the BCSA?
- Are there areas that you would like to be more involved with?
- Are you interested in volunteering at BCSA Events?
- Are there other BCSA activities with which you may like to be more closely involved?
- What can we do to help members with resources or activities?

If you have the skills to set up and analyse this survey in Survey Monkey, the committee would greatly appreciate your contribution.

Please contact our Secretary to discuss this further: secretary@butterflyconservationsa.net.au.

MOTH NIGHTS AT THE BEE HUB

A number of successful 'moth nights' have been held at the Bee Hub at Brownhill Creek, in conjunction with Ferox Australis, a citizen science not for profit organisation.

If you are interested in attending the next one please contact Rossi at beehub.bhc@gmail.com to obtain a program of future events and further information.



Photos J Forrest: Moth Night on 29th April. Rain Moth *Abantiades atripalpis* and Gordian worm both 'at light'.

WHAT'S FOR SALE? - IN OUR ON-LINE SHOP

BOOKS: *"Caterpillars, moths and their plants of southern Australia"* Published BCSA September, 2019 Our price \$30, plus postage.

"Attracting butterflies to your garden, what to grow and conserve in the Adelaide Region" **2nd EDITION** Published by BCSA 2016 - Our price \$25 (financial members may purchase a book for \$20) plus postage.

"The Making of a Monarch" by Linda Shmith. Cost \$20 plus postage.

DVD: *"Butterfly Garden"* produced by Tracy Baron and Carolyn Herbert - \$20 each (BCSA financial members price \$15) plus postage. Limited stock available.

POSTERS: *"Spiders and their allies of the Adelaide Region"* Published by BCSA 2014. \$10 a set of two, plus postage.

"Moths of the Adelaide Region" \$10 Set of four A3 plus postage. Free download available. **Single posters:** *"Bats of SE South Australia"* and *"The Bilby – Endangered Species"* posters are available for \$5 each, plus postage. FREE Orchid Posters. Plus postage. Posters are free to schools, but incur postage.

SITE SIGNS: to obtain an application form to register a butterfly site click on the site sign logo. Cost \$60 includes postage.

PLANT TAGS: See list and form available on website. \$2.00 per tag, inc. plastic stake and postage.

If you would like become a member, order any of our merchandise, including books, plant tags, site signs or posters, check out the

ON-LINE STORE at <https://butterflyconservationsa.net.au/shop/>

For queries email: info@butterflyconservationsa.net.au.



Butterfly Site

www.butterflygardening.net.au



CATERPILLARS

From time to time members of the public and BCSA members give me Wanderer caterpillars that have eaten all host plants available in a garden. This one was raised by great-nephew Sam (aged 7). On 4th April I received a text "we have a new arrival in the family".

Jan Forrest

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Robyn CALDERWOOD
Debra ANDERSON
Corrina JAMES-INGLE
Jo SULLIVAN
Ryan CARR
Emily WINTER
Anne-Marie TARANTO
Russell TURNBULL
Adrian VON DER BORCH
Rosslyn VON DER BORCH
Kathy UNDERWOOD
Belinda BROUGHTON
Kerry WALDIE
Andrew DUNCAN
Neil CHESIRE
Phil BROMLEY
Ellen PRINCE
Dianna TEMME
Julia KING
Joan GOW
Paul KOCH
Mark RUPERT
Richard SMITH
Mak DJUKIC
Fiona WOOD
Sharon WARD
Judith ALLEN
Leisl SHIPARD
Allison BUNT
Rachael TANTI
Kaye MEHTA
Mark LUCOCK
Nan RICHARDS
Megan TROUP
Craig PISTERS

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA Inc.

An affiliated organisation of the South Australian Museum and Friends of Parks.
Postal Address; PO Box 4, DAW PARK 5041 South Australia

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Chairman: Gerry Butler - chairman@butterflyconservationsa.net.au

0407972149

Secretary: Sukhpreet Singh Bala - secretary@butterflyconservationsa.net.au

Treasurer: Dan Daneshi - treasurer@butterflyconservationsa.net.au

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Membership: Gil Hollamby - membership@butterflyconservation.sa.net.au

Newsletter Editor and Public Talks Convener: Jan Forrest OAM -

editor@butterflyconservationsa.net.au C/- South Australian Museum 0419990430.

Committee: Bernadette Johnson, Bryan Haywood (endangered species advocate), Anne Frodsham and Lionel Edwards (website).

Book sales: Sarah Macdonald - publications@butterflyconservationsa.net.au

Newsletter proof reader and editor - Judith Lydeamore

Consultants: Roger Grund OAM and Dr. Peter McQuillan.

Public Officer: Beth Keane

DIARY DATES

COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Meetings are normally held bi-monthly (usually the second Monday of the month) at 6.00pm at a committee member's home. All members are welcome to attend. If you would like to attend please contact Chairman Gerry Butler on 0407972149.

PUBLIC TALKS PROGRAM 2021: first Tuesday March – November, at the Plympton Community Centre, 34 Long Street, Plympton, 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start to 8.30pm. with an option for some talks to be viewed via Zoom. Please watch your email for information regarding public talks.

NEXT TALK. **7th June. 6.30pm** *Insect Investigators*: presented by Dr Erinn Fagan-Jeffries

WEB SITES

BCSA official website: Butterfly Conservation SA - www.butterflyconservationsa.net.au The former domain name **Butterfly Gardening** - www.butterflygardening.net.au is also still available and links directly to the new BCSA site.

South Australian Butterflies and Moths: <https://sabutterflies.org.au> (authored by Roger Grund and now managed by BCSA).

Landscape SA Boards, Urban Biodiversity: <https://landscape.sa.gov.au/hf/plants-and-animals/native-plants-animals-and-biodiversity/urban-biodiversity>



KONICA MINOLTA

Konica Minolta for their generous support to BCSA.

Konica Minolta is a Landcare Australia National Partner



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