



BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA INC.

NEWSLETTER

No. 47: February, 2013

PUBLIC TALKS PROGRAM all set for a third year.

The committee is delighted to advise members that for the third year in a row we will again be presenting a varied and interesting **PUBLIC TALKS PROGRAM** at the Clarence Park Community Centre from 6.15 for a 6.30 start.

The program kicks off on **5th March** when we are fortunate to have the author Robin Coles present information from his book.

“The Ochre Warriors”

The Peramangk people existed in the Mount Lofty Ranges for at least 2,400 years. Their habitat ranged from the cool Eucalyptus forests of the Mount Lofty Summit region, often called the Tiers, to the warmer eastern ranges near the Murray Plains. The neighbouring Aboriginal groups feared them for their sorcery practices. Many often coloured their bodies with red-ochre hence, “The ochre daubed warriors” who were seen in the Adelaide region performing corroborees. Their territory extended from the south near Myponga, north towards Gawler, then east along the South Para River to the settlement called Towitta and southwards following the Bremer Escarpment to Strathalbyn.

The northern Peramangk lived close to Mount Crawford and were known as the “Tarrowata”. The Mount Barker Springs group were known as the “Ngurlinjeri”. A splinter group of the Peramangk nation the “Merrimayanna” lived in semi-permanent campsites in the eastern Barossa Region. The Merrimayanna were skilled artists who painted vivid motifs in mostly red-ochre and others in yellow, black and white. They utilised the many rock shelters in the eastern ranges to depict dreamtime stories, ceremonies and hunting scenes.

Information above from Axiom books website

Other talks during the year will include: ‘Fauna of South Australia’s Mound Springs and Ground Water’; ‘Endangered Plant Species’; ‘Grass Wrens’; ‘Legless Lizards’; ‘Aboriginal Water Craft’; ‘Stick-nest Rat Middens to study Climate Change’; ‘Saline Groundwater Fauna’; and our last speaker will be Peter McQuillan talking on ‘Moths’.

Do make an effort to attend to also hear about our ‘Butterfly of the Month’ and to support the Association. See the full program on page 5.

The AGM of Butterfly Conservation SA will be held on 6th August.

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Top: Cover and Below: pages 134-135

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA. INC. for membership enquiries and annual membership payments (\$10):
Treasurer: 5 Oakleigh Road, MARION. 5043 S.AUST.

HOW TO OBTAIN THE TWO POSTERS "MOTHS OF THE ADELAIDE REGION"

The two posters are being made available to schools free of charge as part of our funding agreement with the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Natural Resources Management Board. However schools are asked to pay for postage.

If you are associated with a school please request a 'school order form'. Cost of postage is \$10 and must accompany the form.

BCSA Members and the general public may purchase a set of two posters for \$10 plus postage = \$20.

A member/general public form is enclosed with this newsletter. On receipt of your form/money the posters will be posted out to you.

Posters will be available to purchase at the Public Talks Program and at 30 Churchill Avenue, Clarence Park, (call Jan on 82978230 to arrange collection) also at the Mt. Pleasant Natural Resource Centre, 132 Melrose Street, Mt Pleasant (phone Gerry on 08 85681876 to arrange collection).

REPRINT OF OUR BOOK

'Attracting butterflies to your garden, what to grow and conserve in the Adelaide Region'.

In 2007 we printed 3000 copies of our book and with just under 400 copies remaining the committee are considering reprinting options.

Fortunately we have sufficient funds available to reprint the book in its present format with a few alterations however if a full scale re-write is envisaged or additional species added that will, of course, incur more expense and additional funding would be needed.

Members are asked to provide comments on the present book. Have you found any errors? Would you like any images replaced, text re-written, species or other information added? NOW is your opportunity.

Please respond in writing/email to secretary Jan Forrest and include your contact details if we need to get back to you for clarification.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ENDANGERED BUTTERFLY SURVEY 23 March, 2013

This autumn get your walking boots on and come out to some fabulous nature reserves and help search for an endangered butterfly called the 'Silver Xenica', pronounced 'Zen-i-ka' *Oreixenica lathoniella herceus*.

It is a small orange-brown butterfly (>25mm in wingspan) which flits around damp forest environments in places like Piccaninnie Ponds and Honan Scrub (near Glencoe) in Autumn (February-April). The larvae feed on soft native grasses. It was first found in SA back in the 1970's at Piccaninnie Ponds then in 2006 a new colony was discovered near Glencoe. Since 2007, it has not been seen at either location. Has it become locally extinct? Did the 2006-2008 drought seal its fate?

Come out this autumn and help try and re-discover the Silver Xenica and put them back on the map.

Activities will include; A field day on Sat 23rd March at Honan Native Forest Reserve introducing the project and participants to butterflies. Then week day and/or weekend searches on foot, guided by local experts in late March-early April.

This project is supported by ForestrySA, DEWNR and Nature Glenelg Trust along with a variety of members from local natural history groups, and is part of the 2013 South East Biodiversity Up Close event series.



Photo: Silver Xenica in Kangaroo Flat Native Forest Reserve in 2007.

Contact: Bryan Haywood, Conservation Planner, Forestry SA, 8724 2765 or haywood.bryan@forestrysa.com.au

Common Grass-blue



Class: Insecta
Order: Lepidoptera
Family: Lycaenidae
Genus: *Zizina*
Species: *labradus*
Subspecies: *labradus*



This is one of the most common butterflies of Australia, with its larvae feeding on a wide range of small herby legumes. It has adapted well to the extensive cultivation of leguminous pastures in agricultural South Australia, such that its numbers are greater now than when their natural habitat was undisturbed. Its flight is weak and fluttery, with the butterflies flying close to the ground. On a very hot day the butterflies are often attracted to water or moist patches in gardens, along creek beds, or roadside edges after a downpour, where they will sip from the water's edge or directly from the damp patch.



Description

Wingspan: male 20mm; female 23mm.

Upperside: Bluish-lilac with dull brown margins, and are broader in the female than in the male.

Underside: Pale grey and has a series of darker but faint markings.



Photos: egg, mid larva, mature larva and adult upperside Photos: LFHunt.

Photo: Pupa and adult underside Photos: LFHunt

**BUTTERFLY
 CONSERVATION
 SA. Inc.**

**C/- SA Museum
 North Terrace,
 ADELAIDE 5000
 S. AUSTRALIA**

Larval Foodplants

The larvae feed on numerous native and introduced plants of the Pea (Leguminosae/Papilionaceae) family. The main native species include: *Crotalaria eremaea strehlowii* (loose-flowered rattlepod), *Cullen australasicum* (tall verbine), *C. pallidum* (bullamon lucerne), *C. patens* (native verbine), *Glycyrrhiza acanthocarpa* (native liquorice), *Hardenbergia violacea* (native lilac), *Indigofera australis* (native indigo), *Lotus australis* (austral trefoil), *L. cruentus* (redflower lotus), *Pultenaea tenuifolia* (bush-pea), and *Swainsona* spp. Introduced species include: *Glycine max* (soybean), *Medicago* spp. (lucerne, medics), *Phaseolus vulgaris* (french gardenbean), *Pisum sativum* (garden pea), *Trifolium* spp. (clover), and *Vicia faba* (broadbean).

The larvae are usually attended by a few ants, including small black ants *Iridomyrmex* sp. *Rhytedoponera* sp. *Tapinoma* sp. or a small dark-brown ant *Paratrechina* sp. or additionally in the far north by the large black meat ant *Iridomyrmex viridiaeneus* or the large sugar ant *Camponotus capito*.

Habitat and Ecology

The Common Grass-blue is common in most open areas of native vegetation, as well as suburban gardens and pastures, wherever the larval food plants grow. In fact it is a minor pest of lucerne, garden beans and other leguminous plants.

Distribution

The Common Grass-blue occurs throughout mainland Australia except in the deserts of western Australia and some of the northern tropic areas. In South Australia it is wherever its food plants occur, which are common and widespread.



Flight Period

It is possible to find these butterflies throughout the year, depending on the area. In northern pastoral areas it is more common after rainy periods as its foodplants respond with new growth. In southern areas it is common during the warmer months. There are continuous broods at this time taking about 10-12 weeks.



Threats

Because it is common and widespread there are no real threats.

Conservation

Locally common in breeding areas such that it can be considered a pest of leguminous crops and vegetables.



Host plant photos: *Hardenbergia violacea* (Native Lilac) J.Hunter; *Swainsona formosa* (Sturt Desert Pea) B.Rowland; *Lotus australis* (Austral trefoil) J.A.Forrest; *Cullen australasicum* (Psoralea or Tall Scurf Pea) T.Berkinshaw; *Pultenaea tenuifolia* bush and flower (Narrow-leaf Bush-pea) R. Sandercock.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS *Zizina labradus* fact sheet:

Majority of text, map and flight bar from: 'Butterflies of South Australia' website by Roger Grund. Other references and contributors include: Michael Moore; Fisher RH 1978 *Butterflies of South Australia*; Braby MF 2004 *The complete field guide to Butterflies of Australia*; Dashorst RM & Jessop JP 'Plants of the Adelaide Plains & Hills'. Production: Jan Forrest OAM, February 2013.

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA Inc.

is a not-for-profit organisation for those interested in conserving the habitat of Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths) and other animals. For further information or to purchase our book 'Attracting Butterflies to your Garden, what to grow and conserve in the Adelaide region' or to purchase a 'Butterfly Garden' DVD contact the Secretary, c/- South Australian Museum, North Terrace, ADELAIDE 5000.

WEBSITE: www.butterflygardening.net.au
EMAIL: info@butterflygardening.net.au

Butterfly Conservation South Australia Inc.

presents

a PUBLIC TALKS PROGRAM 2013

www.butterflygardening.net.au

WHEN:

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

VENUE:

At the Clarence Park Community Centre
72-74 East Avenue, Black Forest.

HOW TO GET THERE:

Bus route W91/W90: stop 10.
Noarlunga Train service: Clarence Park Station.
Genelg Tram: Forestville stop 4, 9min walk south.

COST:

Entry by donation (minimum of \$2).

BRING:

Please bring supper to share, tea/coffee will be supplied.

FINISH TIME:

Meetings should conclude by 8.30pm.

PROGRAM:

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

Photo Robert H Fisher: Satin Azure *Ogyris amaryllis*

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA INC.

c/- South Australian Museum, North Terrace, ADELAIDE
Further Information Secretary: Jan Forrest 8297 8230
Membership is \$10pa

Websites:

Butterfly Gardening - www.butterflygardening.net.au
BCSA - www.chariot.net.au/~bcsa/index.htm

Resources for sale:

Our book 'Attracting butterflies to your garden, what to grow and conserve in the Adelaide region' is available from the secretary. RRP \$29.95 (at the talks program - \$25ea).
New posters (set of two) "Moths of the Adelaide Region" \$10 a set
A 'Butterfly Gardening' DVD will also be available.

PROGRAM OF SPEAKERS

5th March: "Ochre Warriors". Robin Coles is the author of this newly published book which references the Peramangk peoples' use of plants and fungi, and their rock art in the Mount Lofty Ranges. His book will be on sale after the talk.

2nd April: "Mound Springs and ground water fauna"
Dr. Rachael King will provide a fascinating insight into the fauna that lives in the South Australian unique Mound Springs and ground water reserves.

th May: "South Australia's threatened flora: Are we recovering anything?" Tim Jury, Threatened Plant Action Group will provide an overview of our threatened flora and the steps we can all make to ensure their long term survival.

4th June: "Grass Wrens" A fascinating look into the world of these lovely little birds. Presented by SAMuseum Honorary Researcher Dr. Andrew Black.

2nd July: "Legless Lizards" Dr. Mark Hutchinson will trace the evolution of lizards with particular emphasis on those that have lost their legs and why.

6th Aug and AGM: "Aboriginal Canoes of the Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island" Until recently it was thought that Aboriginal watercraft were not in use west of Victor Harbor in SA and east of Esperance in WA. Recent research indicates that watercraft were used on the Fleurieu Peninsula. The implications of this for Aboriginal occupation on KI is considered. This talk by Dr Keryn Walsh will commence at **7.00pm** following a short BCSA AGM at **6.30pm**.

3rd Sept: "Using stick-nest rat middens to study climate change in the Flinders Ranges" presented by Honorary Researcher at the SAMuseum Graham Medlin, this will be of interest to all fascinated by the climate change debate.

1st Oct: "Saline groundwater dependant ecosystems"
BCSA member Peri Coleman is an environmental consultant. She will provide a fascinating insight into coastal sabkhas and dolines found on the Eyre Peninsula and some of the unusual plants and animals that occur in them.

5th Nov: "Moths and their value to the environment"
Dr. Peter McQuillan from the University of Tasmania has studied moths all his life. His talk will provide an overview of these rarely understood insects (and their caterpillars), with particular emphasis on their evolution and biodiversity niche.

In this case of an advertised speaker not being available, a speaker of similar interest will replace that advertised.



DL flyers are available: if you can distribute some please contact Secretary Jan Forrest

OLD BOOKS - SILENT AUCTION

We have recently been asked to sell two old butterfly books to raise funds for cancer research and so have decided on a silent auction. Each book will go to the highest bidder for that book.

If you would like to view the books contact the secretary.

Closing date for bids: 31st March, 2013.

Send your bid to Secretary Jan Forrest via email.

Dig deep, its for a good cause.

If required postage will be added. Items are sold 'as is'.



THE BOOKS

MORRIS (Rev. F.O) *A History of British Butterflies*. 1870 Fifth Edition with 72 hand coloured plates. brown cloth gilt. Has reserve price. Condition: needs rebinding.

SANDARS Edmund. *A Butterfly Book for the Pocket. Including all species to be found in the British Isles with life-sized coloured plates and life histories*. Oxford Press 1948.

Condition: good

NEWSLETTER IN COLOUR

In order to keep the membership fees low newsletters posted to members are printed in BLACK.

Electronic copies of the newsletter however are in colour.

If you presently receive a posted copy it means we do not have your up-to-date email address.

Please provide your email address to Secretary Jan Forrest to receive your newsletter electronically.

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA Inc.

Chairman: David Keane dkeane@iweb.net.au

Secretary and Newsletter Editor: Jan Forrest OAM C/- South Australian Museum, North Terrace, ADELAIDE, 5000 ph H (08) 8297 8230.

email <jan.forrest@samuseum.sa.gov.au> or <jan_forrest@bigpond.com>

Treasurer : 5 Oakleigh Road, MARION. 5043 S.AUST.

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.

DIARY DATES

COMMITTEE MEETINGS - Meetings are normally held bi-monthly (usually the second Monday of the month) at 6.00pm at a committee members home. All members are welcome to attend. If you would like to attend please contact Secretary Jan Forrest.

PUBLIC TALKS PROGRAM 2013: first Tuesday March - Nov., Clarence Park Community Centre 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start to 8.30pm.

Next talk: 5th March: "Ochre Warriors" - see page 1 for details.

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.sabutterflies.org.au>

'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:

Nigel Currie
Alison Harvey

HELPERS NEEDED

to look after our promotion display on 19, 20 and 21 April at the ANIMAL EXPO to be held at the Wayville showgrounds free entry for helpers.

If you can help out please contact Jan Forrest

