

Report to members...

Welcome to our December 2007 newsletter.

We would like to welcome our new members and thank members who have subscribed for another year. We would also like to thank those of you who encouraged new members to join us.

It's also appropriate to acknowledge the many funders and corporate organisations who have shown their faith in us by supporting us financially.

Excitement continues to surround the Trust – our new initiatives to protect and promote awareness of all NZ Lepidoptera is raising our profile and attracting the attention of some very knowledgeable people.

Interest in our more elusive butterflies is being raised, and sightings of some Australian butterflies have been reported. We are holding a Conference in January to take advantage of this – read pages 3-6 to see what it's all about and how you can take part!

We have some interesting reading for you this edition – tips for controlling those pesky bugs, a 'human' sighting report, some amazing facts, and great ideas for Christmas presents.

We also profile some interesting MBNZT Members and share some new ideas with

you.

In the past three months we've been profiled in several newspapers and magazines, had another successful showing at Ellerslie (page 8), and been busy at many schools around the country. In all, a busy but beneficial period as the Trust continues to grow!

We wish to thank everyone who has helped us make 2007 a great year for us. We wish you a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and hope you have a wonderful butterfly summer!

Edith, Gilly, Jacqui, Shelley and Vicky

Our Lady of Fatima School, Christchurch

The children of Room 6 are planting a butterfly garden! They were asked to pick an animal or insect beneficial to the environment and settled on the Monarch butterfly.

Trustee Vicky Steele recently visited and was delighted with the enthusiastic response from the children.

"They'd really done their homework," she said, "peppering me with questions and facts alike. It was wonderful to see children so young (six years) taking such an active interest in the environment."



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MEMBER PROFILES

New Members - Terra Viva

Terra Viva Home and Garden is more than just a great place to find stunning plants and get arguably the best coffee and food in Christchurch – they are also members of the Monarch Butterfly NZ Trust.

Owner Peter (pictured above with staff Shirley, George, Irene, and on the other side of Peter, Joanna, and Noeline) recognises that butterfly lovers are also gardeners and Terra Viva has a wide range of delicious nectar plants to enhance any butterfly garden, with a huge variety of annuals, perennials, flowering shrubs and quality swan plants.

Terra Viva kindly supplied the Trust earlier in the year with vouchers for early membership subscribers, and Peter said his decision to join was for more than just business reasons.

“Terra Viva supports the work of the Monarch Butterfly Trust. As gardeners ourselves we understand the importance of butterflies as pollinators and appreciate the effort the Trust is putting in to protect not just the Monarch, but all NZ butterflies” he said.

Peter and his team are also keen to keep learning about butterflies and what plants attract them so they can pass on useful information to customers.

Thank you Terra Viva – we welcome you as members!

Member Profile - Barbara Stride



Barbara lives in Whangarei and started nurturing Monarch butterflies about ten years ago, before the Monarch Trust was formed.

“You can therefore imagine how delighted I was to hear all about it and to join. I helped Jacqui a couple of years ago with a garden safari.

“My husband and I released well over 100 Monarchs for about three or four years in a row. As I only have a very small garden we would put the

milkweed plants in pots, and once the Monarchs had done their thing we would bring them onto our patio which we covered with shade cloth, so no predators could get to the caterpillars as they fed. I cannot tell you just how many times our plants were stripped and we would rush out to buy more, quite costly in those days. However both Ken and I enjoyed it very much, this gave him a great interest as he had a terminal illness and was limited in what he was able to do.

It was always a great talking point when friends visited and many would be there as another monarch was emerging. I never tire of watching the metamorphosis. Since Ken passed away three years ago, and due to my own health problems, I am not able to do as much gardening. I now have a friend who has the milkweeds and as the chrysalis forms she will pass them onto me. I then put them into my conservatory or inside my house until they emerge and then I can tag them.

I also know a few places where milkweed grows wild and I regularly visit it and bring home any chrysalises. I then protect them from predators and of course am able to do more tagging, I did about 100 last year. I get enormous pleasure from these.

Of course not all butterflies are completely perfect; these I feed with watermelon and honey and water, and they are able to live and remain in my home until they die. I have a special musical box that is quite full of what looks like perfect monarchs. I tried a few times to add a new wing to a damaged one, and even succeeded once and one that was unable to fly, did and flew happily away.

You can see by my story you do not even have to have a garden to participate in helping to nurture Monarch butterflies.

Did You Know?

- * The longest recorded flight of a Monarch butterfly is some 5000 kilometres. While migrating, it can cover over 130 kilometres a day.
- * The Monarch butterfly is believed to have reached some of the islands it has colonised by hanging on to the riggings of ships.
- * The Monarch makes its migratory flight at speeds of up to 11 miles per hour. It travels 5-6 metres above the ground.

Split Proboscis?

Ever had a new butterfly that doesn't seem to have been able to knit its proboscis together properly? This can happen especially if the butterfly has emerged on a cooler, or later in the day.

If you see this, don't panic. Sometimes it can take a day or two for them to finish the job. Keeping them warm will help, and sometimes encouraging them to feed on some honey and water will also stimulate them into action.

Longest recorded (so far) time taken for a butterfly to put its proboscis together – one week!



COME TO OUR CONFERENCE

DATES : 26-28 January 2008

Our first ever Conference is being held over Auckland Anniversary Weekend, before the start of the school term. The first session begins on the morning of Saturday, 26 January, and the event concludes with a field trip on Monday, 28 January.

PLACE : RUSSELL

What a place to learn more about butterflies and the importance of environmental education and collecting data on our vanishing species of flora and fauna!

Russell is very close to paradise.

Wake up early and go for a walk... climb the hills that surround the town and look down on the peaceful harbour... listen to the surf falling on Long Beach. The sounds of Nature are all around.

Kingfishers call from the top of a tree, a tui dives through branches, playing chasey with its mate. And there – it's the rhythmic beat of a kereru's wings... you wonder how those wings can carry that stunning, plump bird through the air.

Ponder on the natural beauty of Russell – with community effort over the past seven years there has been a dramatic reduction in the number of rats, possums and mustelids; birdlife now thrives here. We are so close to the wilderness, and yet we're in the heart of a cosmopolitan community.

You will soon learn to tell the time by the regular hoots or whistles of the passenger ferries which leave every twenty minutes from the wharf.

For passengers the excitement builds as the ferry crosses the bay from Paihia. The energy is enhanced as you set your feet on the wooden planks on the wharf. What is it about Russell that lifts your soul?

There's always children playing around the wharf, or on the brown, pebbly beach. Those who seek sparkling sand, a day by the beach, will find a ten-minute walk takes them to Long Beach. Sit in the shade of the huge Moreton Bay fig, or paddle in safe waters, searching for shells in the sand.

If history is to your liking, then there's plenty to meet your needs... Christ Church with its colourful tapestry pew cushions, the fascinating museum, and Pompallier.

Displays at the Department of Conservation inform us about our natural history. Ask about the four endangered species of bird which thrive on the peninsula – you might be lucky and see or hear one while you're here.

You can sit and sip at one of Russell's fine cafés or restaurants, and hear a dozen different accents while you

do. There's menus for all tastes and price ranges too.

Come and visit the bookshop, also the postal centre. Or call into the liquor shop – which is where you hire a DVD. Buy fishing supplies and book a tour at one shop; fill up the tank and buy gumboots at another. And if you need a Lotto ticket, then you go to the Fullers' cruises. Russell shopkeepers are very versatile!

Ask about the opening hours of the internet café, the library, and the Op Shop – all manned by volunteers so not 24/7. But we've got all the services here.

Russell is remarkably self-contained – it has that island feel, but the regular and reliable passenger and vehicular ferries take you to and fro. All bay cruises call at Russell – so ask your skipper if you can start or end your cruise here and use the ferry to get you back to where you started.

The region is a boatie's haven with excellent facilities available. Fishing and diving are superb.

A visit to Russell is a perfect way to spend a day, a week, or whatever time you've got to spare. We hope you'll come for a few days and enjoy our Conference.

FIELD TRIP

On the Monday a field trip by sailing boat to Urupukapuka Island in the Bay to view Copper butterflies has been arranged. We can assure you of a great time.

The plan is to take a picnic lunch to a sheltered bay, and relax informally with Dr Robert Hoare and other specialists. The weather or the butterflies are no guaranteed – but it is the peak of the summer, and there's always a chance you will see dolphins at play, or a whale passing by.

Those who book and pay for the trip first will be guaranteed a place on the 11.6 metre 'Kingfisher' or 15 metre 'Kama Lua'. Feel the gentle breeze in your hair and the warm sun on your back; see your cares slip away as the yacht glides smoothly through the clear, clean waters of the Bay. Kingfisher sailing charters specialise in small groups, families and exclusive charters to provide that special personal touch.

HOW TO GET HERE

Although we are not an island, living at the end of the peninsula means a convenient short cut is by ferry. Regular car and passenger ferries bring people from the 'mainland'. Russell is 3½ hours' drive north from Auckland via Whangarei, Kawakawa to Opuia and across the Bay by vehicle ferry. This is a continuous shuttle from Opuia to Okiato with crossings about every 15 minutes throughout the day from 6.40am until 10pm. Once leaving the car ferry, you follow the road for another 9km to Russell. Alternatively drive to Russell via the coastal road: about 20km north of Whangarei turn right off SH1 onto Old Russell Road, signposted to Oakura.

Regular coach services from Auckland serve the Bay of Islands. Nearest airports are Whangarei, a one-hour drive south of Russell; or Kerikeri, forty minutes to the north. Rental cars are available at both airports and there is a transfer coach service from Kerikeri to Paihia. Taxi shuttle



Conference Programme

Day 1:	Saturday, 26 January 2008
9.30am	Arrive, registration, morning tea
10am	Welcome, introduction, outline of goals
10.15am	History of the Monarch Butterfly NZ Trust - Jacqui Knight
10.30am	Dr Mark Hauber - The Mechanics of Insect Navigation
11am	Professor Myron Zalucki - Biology and Ecology of Monarch butterflies - host relations, habitats and migration - Part I
12pm	Lunch
1pm	Prof Myron Zalucki - Biology and Ecology continued
1.30pm	Tagging Workshop
2pm	Dr Robert Hoare - NZ's Lepidoptera species
3pm	Afternoon tea
3.30pm	The importance of environmental education - RSNZ/MBNZT Fellows
4pm	Workshops - activities for children - choice of eight workshops - Session 1
4.20pm	Workshops - activities for children - choice of eight workshops - Session 2
4.40pm	Workshops - activities for children - choice of eight workshops - Session 3
5pm	Conclusion/plenary
	Evening Meal - after dinner activity (to be advised)
Day 2:	Sunday, 27 January 2008
9am	Plenary/introduction
9.30am	Workshops - activities for children - choice of eight workshops - Session 4
9.50am	Workshops - activities for children - choice of eight workshops - Session 5
10.10am	Workshops - activities for children - choice of eight workshops - Session 6
10.30am	Morning Tea
11am	Plants for butterflies (nectar and host)
12pm	Lunch
1pm	Dr Colin Meurk - Describing your GPS co-ordinates
1.30pm	Dr Colin Meurk - The importance of knowing more about NZ's wildlife (NZ Biodiversity Recording Network)
2.30pm	Afternoon Tea
3pm	Discussions - MBNZT - Where to from here?
3.30pm	Annual General Meeting of the Monarch Butterfly NZ Trust
5pm	Close
Day 3:	Monday, 28 January 2008 (Auckland Anniversary Day)
	Field Trip out on the Bay - Picnic Lunch - Investigation of Copper Butterflies





drivers based in Russell also collect passengers when required.

Passenger ferries leave the Paihia wharf, with the first ferry leaving Paihia at 7.30am (Russell at 7am). All ferry tickets are purchased on board (cash only).

VENUE

The Conference proper will take place in the Masonic Lodge in Church Street Russell. This is a two minute walk from the Russell wharf, with plenty of parking for those who come by car.

ACCOMMODATION

There is plenty of accommodation in Russell – from backpackers to the luxury market. But this can be one of the busiest times of the year and we suggest that you contact the Russell Information Centre to make your bookings.

The Russell Information Centre can be contacted by email to info@russellinfo.co.nz or phone 0800 633 255.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Dr Mark Hauber is a behavioural ecologist focussing on the evolution

of recognition systems – shifting gears between behavioural, developmental, and molecular tools. Over recent years he has been studying the social and genetic consequences of species recognition in avian brood parasites, such as cuckoos and cowbirds.

He also has a strong interest in the neural basis of the perception of functionally significant social displays and has studied alternative foraging tactics and strategies of stationary predators such as spiders and antlions. His further interests in behavioural, conservation, and evolutionary ecology include studying counterintuitive communication systems and interspecific interactions.

Mark received a B.S. in Biology and Organismal Biology summa cum laude at Yale University and a Ph.D. in Neurobiology and Behaviour at Cornell University.

He will be working with the Royal Society of NZ Fellows and the MBNZT for the first two terms of 2008.

Dr Robert Hoare is a lepidopterist with Landcare Research based at Tamaki.

NZ has 1761 recorded species of Lepidoptera – mostly moths. This figure includes 63 vagrant species (recorded here only occasionally) and 73 species introduced since European settlement. Robert Hoare knows them well.

He is also attributed with having identified the world's thinnest caterpillar – *Houdinia flexillissima* – named after the magician, Houdini.

Dr Colin Meurk is a landscape ecologist at Landcare Research. He has a particular concern about the loss of natural character and ecological integrity across our cultural landscapes.

Colin is President of the Travis Wetland Trust and Advisory Panel Science Advisor to NZ

REGISTRATION FORM

Given:				Surname:		
Company/Org'n:						
Full Address:						
Phone (day)				Fax		
Email					Member	Non-member
Full registration, includes morning/afternoon teas Saturday and Sunday. Does not include dinner Saturday or Field Trip Monday				80.00	95.00	
Day registration - please tick Saturday () or Sunday ()				45.00	55.00	
Field Trip, Monday, lunch included				99.00	109.00	
Dinner, Saturday night				35.00	35.00	
TOTAL PAYMENT DUE (cheque enclosed / internet banking)						
No refunds for cancellations or no-shows.						

Ecological Restoration Network's National Council.

In the early 1980s Colin had a vision: to save Christchurch's Travis swamp from encroaching urban development. He began working with a group of dedicated people and in 1992 they established the Travis Wetland Trust to preserve and develop the swamp as a Nature Heritage Park for the education and enjoyment of all.

As well as organising workdays and community planting days the Trust sources funding for boardwalks, facilities and specific projects. They also write submissions on policies, plans, and strategies (such as pest management strategy) pertaining to wetlands.

Professor Myron Zalucki is an insect ecologist with the University of Queensland. His students work with him in various applied and basic research areas.

"We generally take an individuals-process based approach to the study of insect abundance and distribution," he said.

"We use various 'model' systems to ask questions ranging from the effect of host chemistry on oviposition behaviour and early stage caterpillar survival, to the effects of learning on oviposition behaviour at a landscape level and the effects of climate on insect abundance.

Myron prefers to work on butterfly-plant interactions, particularly Monarchs and milkweeds. He spoke at a meeting of Monarch Butterfly NZ Trust members in Auckland last year, and inspired the members who wanted to learn more from him about Monarchs and their migratory habits.

Workshop Leaders

Eight teachers and environmental educators will offer identical sessions – and you get to choose the six you want to attend. Each session lasts twenty minutes,



MBNZT Conference
C/- NZ Post
RUSSELL 0272

and by the end of the session you will have learned a new skill that you can share with children, whether you are a teacher, parent or group leader.

Some will cover crafts and others will be more academic or practical activities. Learning how to make a pooter (a tool to help you shift insects such as ladybirds to control aphids) is also on the programme.

Workshop content and leaders will be announced at the conference. Participation will be limited, and allocated on a first come, first served basis. There is no additional charge for these workshops.

RSNZ/MBNZT Teacher Fellows will be returning fresh from the NZ Association of Environmental Educators' Conference in Dunedin and will share with us some of what they have shared with their school communities over the years to give their pupils a deeper appreciation of the need to preserve the environment.

Notice of Annual General Meeting of the Monarch Butterfly New Zealand Trust 3.30pm Sunday, 28 January 2008 – Masonic Lodge, Russell

Agenda:

Apologies –

- (a) Chairperson's Report
- (b) Statement of Accounts for 2006-2007
- (c) Auditor's Report
- (d) Budget for 2007-2008
- (e) Elections of Members of the Board
- (f) Election of a Chairperson
- (g) Election of Secretary/Treasurer
- (h) Fix annual subscriptions for 2008-2009.
- (i) General Business

The meeting will also be held on line - for further information, contact jacqui@monarch.org.nz.

1. Complete details on reverse
2. Select 'full' or the day you want to attend
3. Complete cheque to cover conference fees OR make internet payment, write reference on form
4. Mail form (and payment) before 20 December.

After 20 December, late fees may apply - email trust@monarch.org.nz
Photocopies acceptable.

Tips for Beating the Bad Guys

Trustee Gill Jackson has unearthed these tips; she is currently trialling them in her garden. We'd like to hear from you if any of these natural remedies work for you!

Lemon Spray: This spray will repel whiteflies and soft-bodied insects. Boil the rind of three lemons in 600ml water, cool and remove peel. Put solution in a properly labelled spray bottle.

Banana Peel Repellent: Banana peel will repel aphids, the potassium from the peel also stimulates large blooms. Place banana peel around roses and other plants.

Lemongrass wasp repellent: Place lemongrass in a vase on your picnic table to keep wasps away.

Aphids

After her recent stint at the Ellerslie Flower Show, Jacqui Knight returned home to discover she is the best aphid farmer in the whole world!

"There were hundreds of the little blighters – my plants are really looking sad and sick. Which reminded me that several people asked at Ellerslie for info about what to do about aphids," she said.

"Aphids will seriously affect the health of your milkweed – and thus you will have less healthy food for your Monarchs."

Jacqui has since put together a fact sheet on how to deal with these unwanted invaders. If you are having problems with aphids, email or send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Trust for the Aphids handout. This complements the information sheet already available for wasps.

Spotted Recently...

...Daniel Carter at a Christchurch nursery buying swan plants for his 'kids'!

More Trustees Wanted!

If you are interested in becoming a Trustee we would like to hear from you. Being a Trustee is very rewarding – Trustees are responsible for the governance of the Monarch Butterfly NZ Trust, putting in place the strategies to enable the organisation to meet the aims and objectives for which it was formed.

The strategies can involve reviewing the purpose, analysing the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities associated with the purpose, analysing the environment in which the organisation operates (including the political, economic and social environment), analysing any competitors and/or potential partners and identifying appropriate strategies for dealing with them.

Strategies can cover investments, products, brand and image, human resources and technology.

Those who carry out the management tasks (different positions to those of Trustees, such as our Treasurer) implement the wishes of the Trustees – setting timeframes and the reporting back processes and then monitoring the implementation. Monitoring includes checking budget and financial performance, legal compliance and management

performance. It also includes setting up key indicators to give a picture of progress and against which to measure performance.

Our members and other stakeholders (such as funders and the authorities with whom we work), are entitled to expect high standards of accountability from both Trustees and management. Those in charge need to provide a clear and accurate view of what our organisation is doing, how it is performing and the assurance that it is operating in the best interests of the stakeholders.

If you would like more information we would love to hear from you - email trust@monarch.org.nz or write to us C/- NZ Post, Russell.

A Seed of an Idea

We are always looking for funding for various projects. Over the past year we have become aware that many seed merchants import their milkweed seed (e.g. swan plant, *Asclepias curassavica*) from overseas, and we have also created a demand for the latter plant in its Silky Scarlet and Silky Gold forms.

We know many of you would be willing to collect your seed and pass it to the Trust, to either be given to schools or for those seed merchants, nurseries etc who need it. The businesses could make boost our funds instead of importing seed from overseas.

Any seed collection would have to be done professionally - e.g. the seed would need to be dry and clean. We would weigh it and invoice it. If you are interested in participating in this project please contact seeds@monarch.org.nz

Ellerslie hand-out cards

At the Ellerslie Flower Show we gave away cards containing a few wildflower seeds (courtesy of Wildflower World). There were eight different cards in the series, each one featuring a NZ butterfly or moth.

The cards also have a discount voucher for a visit to Butterfly Creek.

There are some hand-out cards left over, and these would be ideal for schools or clubs or even thank you gifts for people you are associated with – if you would like some to give away please send a large envelope to MBNZT, C/- NZ Post, Russell – stocks are limited.

Thank you SO very, very much!

We are always so thrilled to have spontaneous offers of support from many different quarters – it is difficult to keep track of the many thoughtful people out there who help our Trust and its aims.

Last month Pet Mania, the fun, family-friendly pet store in Browns Bay (Auckland's North Shore) held a month of activities with proceeds to the Monarch Butterfly NZ Trust. Everyone enjoyed their time in store!

And if you're in Wellington look out for the work of talented jewellery designer, Lindsay Park – her beautiful butterflies are sold with a share of the proceeds to the Monarch Butterfly NZ Trust.



Ellerslie

If you missed out on this year's Ellerslie Flower Show you missed out on a beauty. We had a stand in the Hort Galore marquee with other clubs and societies.

The weather was much improved, although the wind had a go at blowing down our back panels early on in the show, also changing grass to mud outside and making access a nightmare.

Thanks to Hugh and Vicky who had come up from Christchurch, we managed to get set up in time... no amount of planning can include all of the contingencies that arise.

On our stand we had a rainbow of nectar flowers and a glasshouse filled with Monarchs in all stages of the life cycle – and in the centre of the stand we had a huge sculpture of overwintering butterflies, each butterfly having been crafted by children from all over NZ.

In front of that a mechanical caterpillar bobbed up and down thanking people for their donations with its illuminated antennae – much fun!

The message we wanted to get across was that NZ's butterflies are under threat, and that butterflies need nectar plants as well as host plants. Lots of people said things like 'there are only two butterflies in NZ, the Monarch and the White Butterfly' and to help them 'all you need to do is plant a Swan plant'.

Thanks to Toshiba we had an awesome PowerPoint presentation (made by Vicky) showing some of the butterflies of NZ and their host plants. The handouts, artwork also by Vicky, were a memento for people to take home, with a few wildflower seeds. I am sure people will think more about butterflies in their landscape.

According to Beverley, one of our hardworking volunteers (of which there were about fifty involved in the show, travelling from as far afield as Christchurch, Kapiti, Tauranga and way outside the Auckland area) the sculpture would have had to be one of the most photographed items at the show.

Many teachers/children stopped and proclaimed that they'd been involved; they were very proud to be associated with it. Each school will receive a book (donated by various publishers) as well as charts, seeds etc.

All of the volunteers went into a draw to win a wheelbarrow after the event, filled with nectar plants and milkweed – this was won by Beverley.

According to publicity something like 65,000 people came through the show over the five days.

Our thanks to Jacqui Knight for designing the stand and coordinating the Trust's effort – we were awarded a Bronze, quite an achievement for such a small, new organisation.



Christmas Present ideas!

Stuck for something for a Christmas gift? How about a 'Flowers that Fly' T-shirt! We have some in stock from last year, available for the discounted price of \$25. Stocks are limited but sizes are L, XL, 2XL.

This year's T-shirts, including our message "Protecting NZ's Lepidoptera" are available for \$35 each, P&P inclusive. We need to have orders in by 10 December to meet our Christmas deadline, so contact the Trust now to ensure they arrive in time. For immediate delivery we have some M and L.

